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*George Compton*

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST  
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS



THE  
ANNUAL  
BIOGRAPHY AND OBITUARY,  
FOR THE YEAR  
1818.

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VOL. II.

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LONDON:

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1818.

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST  
OF LONDON

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## P R E F A C E.

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THE Second Volume of the ANNUAL BIOGRAPHY and OBITUARY is now presented to the Public. It contains an account of many of the celebrated men who died in the course of the year 1817 ; and also includes three memoirs of distinguished characters, who were cut off but a few months antecedent to that period.

On this, as on a former occasion, recourse has been had to assistance of various kinds ; and it will probably be allowed, by such as are disposed to liberality and candour, that much curious and interesting information has been procured. It may be easily discovered on inspection, indeed, that many important papers have been obtained ; and it ought to be known, also, that while some families have vouchsafed to contribute original documents, others have kindly corrected such as were sent for their perusal.

On the life of Sir Herbert Croft, much research has been bestowed ; and a variety of facts relative to the late Dukes of Northumberland and Marlborough are here detailed, not hitherto known to the Public.

The memoir of the founder of the Literary Fund, comprehends an analysis of his works ; while that of the late Dr. William Thomson was in part compiled from materials which he himself had furnished, and in part from repeated communications with his early contemporaries. The latter will be found to contain anecdotes of several of his friends ; and, indeed, it is connected with the literary history of England during the last thirty-five years. The article respecting the Right Hon. John P. Curran, is from the pen of a gentleman to whom he was well known ; while that of the Hon. Henry Erskine exhibits a specimen of his early poetry, which is now printed, for the first time, from a copy transcribed by his own hand.

Nor ought it to be omitted, that on most occasions an analysis will be found of the chief works of many of the literary men here noticed ; together with occasional quotations of the most splendid passages in their respective productions.

The “ Neglected Biography,” exhibits two or three specimens that may not prove wholly uninteresting. One of the memoirs contains all the Latin poetry, as well as the few anecdotes that could be still obtained, relative to a singular youth, who, like the Roman Marcellus, appeared above the horizon



only for a moment ; and then suddenly disappearing, like his own countryman Crichton, left scarcely a trace behind.

Neither in this, nor the preceding volume, is it meant to urge any pretensions beyond the humble claims of industry and impartiality. It is earnestly hoped, therefore, that but few errors will occur ; and no particular bias be discovered, either in respect to politics or religion.



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William Thomson, LL.D. - - - -	74	1746	1817
Hugh, Duke and Earl of Northumberland	118	1742	1817
George Spencer, Duke of Marlborough, } D.C.L. F.R.S. - - - - - }	128	1738	1817
Admiral Sir John Thomas Duckworth, } G.C.B. - - - - - }	136	1747	1817
Right Honourable John Philpot Curran -	151	1750	1817
James Glenie, Esq. M.A. F.R.S. of Lon- } don and Edinburgh - - - - }	184	1750	1817
Right Honourable George Ponsonby -	204	1755	1817
Eyles Irwin, Esq. - - - - -	221	1748	1817
Her Royal Highness The Princess Char- } lotte of Wales - - - - - }	237	1796	1817
Francis Horner, Esq. M.P. - - - -	252	1778	1817
Honourable Henry Erskine - - - -	275	1746	1817

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Charles Combe, M.D. F.R.S. and A.S. -	298	1743	1817
Chief Baron Sir Alexander Thomson -	306	1745	1817
William Saunders, M.D. F.R.S. and F.S.A.	308	1743	1817
Count Alvisé P. Zenobio - - - -	309	1757	1817
Right Honourable Sir John M'Mahon, Bart.	312	1754	1817
Benjamin Travers, Esq. - - - -	318	1752	1817
John Paddey, Esq. - - - - -	320	1738	1817
Francis North, Earl of Guilford - -	321	1761	1817
Louisa Catharine, Dowager Marchioness } of Sligo - - - - - }	325	1767	1817
Patrick, Earl of Roscommon - - - -	327	1769	1817
Samuel Rudge, Esq. - - - - -	328	1727	1817
Arthur Charles Murphy, Esq. - - -	330	1755	1817
Joseph George Holman, Esq. - - -	332	1764	1817
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Sir John Palmer, Bart. - - - -	341	1735	1817

	Page.	Born.	Died.
James Edward, Lord Arundel of Wardour	343	1763	1817
Lieutenant-Colonel Mellish, Equerry to his } R. H. the Prince Regent - - - }	346	1777	1817
Christopher Potter, Esq., Ex-M.P. for } Colchester - - - - - }	352	1748	1817
Sir Joseph Mawbey, Bart. - - - - -	355	1763	1817
Rev. William Beloe, B.D. S.A. Preben- } dary of St. Pancras, &c. - - - }	356	1756	1817
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Thomas Sheridan, Esq. - - - - -	365	1780	1817
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Josiah Boydell, Esq. Ex-Alderman of Lon- don, &c. - - - - -	375	—	1817
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Ellis Bent, Esq. Judge-Advocate of New } South Wales - - - - - }	384	1784	1817
Miss Henrietta Rhodes, a Poetess, Novel- writer, &c. - - - - - }	385	1756	1817
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Sir William Pierce-Ashe A'Court, Bart. } late M.P. - - - - - }	390	1747	1817
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Rev. John Lyon, B.A. F.L.S. and S.A. -	397	1734	1817
Hugh, Earl of Eglintoun, K.T. - - -	400	1748	1817
R.G. Hogan, Esq., D.C.L. Chief Justice } of Sierra-Leone - - - - - }	402	1774	1817
John Prendergast, Viscount Gort - - -	403	1741	1817



	Page.	Born.	Died.
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The Very Rev. William Vincent, D.D. } late Dean of Westminster - - - }	411	1739	1815
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THE  
ANNUAL  
BIOGRAPHY AND OBITUARY,  
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1817.

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PART I.  
*MEMOIRS OF CELEBRATED MEN, WHO HAVE  
DIED WITHIN THE YEARS 1816—1817.*

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No. I.

THE REV. SIR HERBERT CROFT, BART. B.C.L.  
OF DUNSTER PARK, IN THE COUNTY OF BERKS.

[*With an Account of his Works.*]

TO record the events that occur in the life of a man of letters, is, in general, but to detail his embarrassments, his mortifications, and his misfortunes. This is truly lamentable, more especially, when, as on the present occasion, the biography of one highly gifted with powers of a superior order, excites our attention; when a poet, a philologist, and an antiquary demands at once our respect, and our commiseration. Nor is it calculated to diminish general regard, when we recollect, that the gentleman now under consideration, of reputable birth and unimpeachable character, superadded the claims of an accomplished scholar, and an orthodox divine.

Sir Herbert Croft was the head and representative of a very ancient and respectable family, which, in all probability, derived its name from *Croft-Castle*, in the county of Hereford; where it appears to have been seated anterior to the Norman Conquest. That his progenitors were great Saxon Chiefs long before, and powerful Barons for some ages after that memorable period, there can be but little doubt, without recurring to more remote periods. We have it on record, indeed, that Sir Richard Croft, of Croft-Castle, was a man of eminence in the reign of Edward IV. He took Prince Edward, eldest son of Edward VI. prisoner, at the battle of Tewkesbury; and being justly apprehensive of his fate, such was his scrupulous honour and delicacy, that he would not deliver him up, until after proclamation, and promise of safety for his person had been publicly made and granted.

We find a Sir Herbert Croft sitting in that parliament of James I. which was assembled in 1604. An act of brutal violence committed against his person, produced a new and spirited decision on a question of privilege, as will appear from the following quotation from Macaulay's *History of England*, vol. i. p. 18.

“ The Commons had nobly asserted their privileges in several instances. The delivery of Sir Thomas Shirley, one of their members, who had been committed to the Fleet, was demanded and obtained, and the Warden punished for contempt of the House, in refusing to release his prisoner.

“ Sir Herbert Crofts, (Croft,) another of their members, coming up with others to hear the King's speech, was insulted by a Yeoman of the Guards, who shut the door against him, saying, ‘ good man, burgess, you come not here !’ The Commons resented the insult as an affront upon the whole House; and their anger was with much difficulty appeased by the Yeoman asking pardon for his fault, and receiving on his knees a reprimand from the Speaker.”

In still more modern times, we learn that a Herbert Croft, born at Oxford in 1603, was nominated soon after the Restoration, to the see of Hereford. His father, a zealous Ca-

tholic, had sent him for education to the English College of Jesuits at St. Omer's, in Flanders; but on his return he became acquainted with Dr. Morton, Bishop of Durham, who converted him to the Protestant faith. Soon after this he was admitted a student of Christ Church, Oxford, and entering into holy orders in 1639, was preferred to a prebendal stall in the cathedral of Salisbury. In 1644 he was advanced to the deanery of Hereford; and taking part with the King (Charles I.) against the Parliament, experienced many hardships on account of his loyalty. On the return of the son (Charles II.) he was fortunate enough to be rewarded for his attachment to the father with the see of Hereford; but notwithstanding his zeal and sufferings in the royal cause, his Lordship, instead of becoming a persecutor in his turn, appears to have imbibed noble and liberal sentiments in the school of affliction; he being the author of a tract printed in 1675, entitled "Naked Truth;" the object of which was to obtain toleration for the Dissenters. He died at Hereford, in 1691, and was buried in the cathedral.

His only son Herbert appears to have been created a Baronet during his father's life-time, having obtained a patent in 1671. He represented his native county in several parliaments, as Knight of the Shire, and married the daughter of Thomas Archer, Esq., by whom he had several children.

He was succeeded on his death by Sir Archer, his only surviving son, who sat during several parliaments for the boroughs of Leominster and Beeralston; and who was nominated a commissioner of trade and plantations. He married Frances, daughter of Brigadier-General Waring.

On his demise, in 1758, he was succeeded by his grandson Sir Archer, who, in 1759, married a daughter of William Cowper, Esq. one of the Clerks of the House of Lords, and most likely a descendant of Lord Chancellor Cowper, by whom he had an only daughter.

Without entering into further details, it is only necessary to observe, that Mr. Herbert Croft, the father of the subject of this memoir, does not appear to have been much indebted to the gifts

of fortune. The third Baronet, indeed, had cut off the entail of the family estate, and sold Croft Castle to the father of the late Thomas Johnes\*, Esq. of Llanvinr in Cardiganshire; and being but a younger branch, he was, of course, very slenderly provided for. He, however, obtained the office of Treasurer of the Charter House, which enabled him to maintain and educate his family with a considerable degree of respectability.

His son, Herbert, of whom we are now prepared to treat, and grandson of Sir Archer Croft, of Dunster Park, in the county of Berks (the second Baronet of this family), was born Nov. 1, 1751. Being intended for a liberal profession, he received a regular education, first at school, and next at University College, Oxford; and as his studies pointed to the Bar, he obtained the degree of Bachelor of Civil Law, on April 6, 1785, by which he considerably abridged the term of his attendance on the Courts.

Mr. Croft, previously to this last event, had entered himself a student of Lincoln's-Inn, and for some time resided in chambers there. That his mind was at this time seriously bent on the legal profession, will appear from a pamphlet published in 1782, containing an account of a plan laid down by him for a new edition of the Statutes at large.

At length, however, from what motive it is difficult to pronounce, Mr. Herbert Croft bent his views towards the Church. On this occasion, he was fortunate enough to obtain the office of chaplain to the Garrison of Quebec. In this new profession, however, he does not appear to have succeeded. Some of his progenitors had enjoyed deaneries, prebendal stalls, and a rich bishoprick; but the estates in Herefordshire and Berkshire were gone; and no political or parliamentary interest was attached to his family. He seems also so unfortunate as to have been destitute even of a patron, although he publicly professed a lasting and unbounded attachment to an accomplished Dignitary of the Anglican Church, who might have easily rendered him comfortable for life.

\* See vol. i. of *Ann. Biog.* p. 534.



It is well known that Mr. Croft entertained a high respect for that celebrated Prelate, the late Dr. Hurd, who after duly discharging his episcopal functions for almost twenty-seven years, and refusing the primacy, expired in his sleep May 28, 1808, in the 89th year of his age. The following epitaph, composed long before that period has been uniformly attributed to the pen of the subject of these memoirs :

“ PASSENGER !

THE URN YOU HAVE VISITED CONTAINS THE HEART  
OF RICHARD HURD, BISHOP OF WORCESTER :

A PRELATE DISTINGUISHED BY EVERY VIRTUE,  
AND

IMMORTALIZED BY EVERY QUALIFICATION,  
THAT

COULD ADORN THE CHRISTIAN,  
THE GENTLEMAN, AND THE SCHOLAR.  
THE ROYAL PUPILS\*, WHOSE CONFIDENCE  
HE

GAINED BY THE ELEGANCE OF HIS MANNERS,  
AND THE SINCERITY OF HIS COUNSELS,  
KNEW, AND ADMIRED THE WORTH, AND  
INTEGRITY OF THEIR PRECEPTOR.

THEY CHERISHED THE MAN WHO HAD TAUGHT THEM  
THE IMPORTANT LESSON HOW TO BE BELOVED,  
WHILE THE ARROW OF DEATH FORBORE TO  
VINDICATE ITS ERRAND, AND DIRECTED  
THIS

TRIBUTE TO HIS MEMORY, WHEN ROBBED  
OF THE FELICITY OF CONTEMPLATING  
HIS LIVING PERFECTIONS.”

Mr. Croft being disappointed in his expectations of clerical preferment, now addicted himself wholly to literature. His pursuits naturally led him to form an acquaintance with those who pursued the same track with himself; and he was lucky enough to reckon many celebrated and respectable characters among the number of his friends.

\* The Prince Regent and Duke of York.

At a period when the name of Dr. Samuel Johnson had attained high and universal fame, he deemed it his peculiar good fortune to be one of those who lived in familiar and unreserved intimacy with the great lexicographer. While the former was employed on the lives of the poets, he experienced great difficulties in respect to materials, particularly in regard to Young, a name of considerable note both at home and abroad. To conciliate the Editor, his friend, on this occasion, appears to have exerted himself with considerable effect; and from Mrs. Montague and others, learned a number of particulars, which, but for his labours and communications, might have been for ever forgotten. He also appears to have been personally acquainted with the son of the author of the "Night Thoughts;" a circumstance which doubtless enabled him to refute a variety of errors, prejudices, and misconceptions concerning that much-injured gentleman. To acquire a more intimate acquaintance with the private life of the author, he actually took a journey into Hertfordshire, to interrogate the Poet's housekeeper in person, but he arrived too late, for she had been buried two or three days!

It is the general fault of biographers to bring forward all the virtues and talents of those whose lives they write, and at the same time keep all their foibles and vices in the back ground; but Mr. Croft did not, on this occasion, feel any necessity to follow the beaten track. His friend, Dr. Johnson, not only allows that his information was of a superior kind, but adds, "the Public will perhaps wish that I had solicited and obtained more such favours from him." The vehicle, nowever, is not perhaps of the best kind; for this biographical sketch is conveyed under the form of an epistolary correspondence, that disfigures the uniformity of the work of which it is destined to constitute a part. This letter, dated September 1780, commences thus:

"Dear Sir,

"In consequence of our different conversations about authentic materials for the life of Young, I send you the follow-

ing detail. Of great men something must always be said to gratify curiosity. Of the illustrious author of the ‘Night Thoughts,’ much has been told of which there never could have been proofs; and little care appears to have been taken to tell that, of which proofs with little trouble might have been procured.

“Edward Young was born at Upham, near Winchester, in June 1681. He was the son of Edward Young, at that time fellow of Winchester College, and rector of Upham, &c. The father became dean of Sarum, and we are told that Bishop Burnet commemorated his death, in a sermon preached in the cathedral of Salisbury, on the Sunday after his demise.

“The son was placed upon the foundation at Winchester College, and afterwards repaired to Oxford, ‘without the reward provided for merit by William of Wykeham.’ There are who relate,” adds Mr. Croft, “that when first Young found himself independent, and his own master at All Souls, he was not the ornament to religion and morality which he afterwards became! The authority of his father, indeed, had ceased sometime before by his death; and Young was certainly not ashamed to be patronized by the infamous Wharton. But Wharton befriended in Young, perhaps the poet, and particularly the tragedian. If virtuous authors must be patronized only by virtuous peers, who shall point them out? Yet Pope is said by Ruffhead to have told Warburton, that ‘Young had much of a sublime genius, though without common sense;’ so that his genius, having no guide, was perpetually liable to degenerate into bombast. This made him pass a *foolish youth*, the sport of peers and poets; but his having a very good heart, enabled him to support the clerical character, first with decency, and afterwards with honour.

“They who think ill of Young’s morality, in the early part of his life, may perhaps be wrong; but Tindall could not err in his opinion of Young’s warmth and ability in the cause of religion. Tindall used to spend much of his time at All Souls: ‘The other boys,’ said the atheist, ‘I can always answer,

because I always know whence they have their arguments, which I have read a hundred times ; but that fellow Young is continually pestering me with something of his own.'

"After all, Tindall and the censurers of Young may be reconcilable. Young might, for two or three years, have tried that kind of life in which his natural principles would not suffer him to wallow long. If this were so, he has left behind him, not only his evidence in favour of virtue, but the potent testimony of experience against vice."

Our biographer allows that some of Dr. Young's works, particularly his dedications, abound with flattery ; but he shows how the author was ashamed of, and suppressed many of them ; after which, he asks, "Shall the gates of repentance be shut only against literary sinners ?" Mr. C., little dreaming at the time that he himself should ever be in exactly the same predicament, seems to cast many doubts on the assertion conveyed by Swift in his "Rhapsody," that his author had a pension from the court !

We are told that while Young was in Ireland, most probably in the suite of the Duke of Wharton, the Dean one afternoon pointed out a noble elm, which in its uppermost branches was much withered and decayed, to which pointing, he said to him, "I shall be like that tree, I shall die at top !"

"It will surprise you," adds he, addressing himself to Dr. Johnson, "to see me cite second of Atkins, case 136, *Ailes versus the Attorney-General*, March 14, 1740, as authority for the life of a poet. But biographers do not always find such certain guides as the oaths of the persons whom they record. Chancellor Hardwicke was to determine, whether two annuities granted by the Duke of Wharton to Young, were for legal considerations. One was dated the 24th of March, 1719, and accounted for his Grace's bounty in a style princely and commendable, if not legal ; — 'considering that the public good is advanced by the encouragement of learning and the polite arts, and being pleased therein with the attempts of Dr. Young, in consideration thereof, and of the love I bear him, &c.' The other was dated the 10th of July, 1722."

Mr. Herbert Croft records, that Voltaire having ridiculed Milton's allegory of Sin and Death, in the company of his author, (most probably at the celebrated Bub Doddington's,) the following extempore epigram was the punishment to which this celebrated Frenchman exposed himself on this occasion :

“ You are so witty, profligate, and thin,  
At once we think thee, Milton, Death, and Sin ! ”

He also seems to prove that the following celebrated lines abound with the *poetica licentia*, as Lady Elizabeth Young, her daughter and husband, are the persons supposed to be alluded to in the Night Thoughts; all of whom died at far more distant periods :

“ Insatiate Archer ! could not one suffice ?  
Thy shaft flew thrice, and thrice my peace was slain ;  
And thrice, ere thrice yon moon had filled her horn.”

We are told soon after this, that “ when Young was writing a tragedy, Grafton is said by Spence, to have sent him a human skull, with a candle in it, as a lamp ; and the poet is reported to have used it.”

After stating, that it is unfair to bring the gloominess of “ Night Thoughts ” to prove the gloominess of Young, and to show that his genius, like the genius of Swift, was, in some measure, the sullen inspiration of discontent, he remarks, that his parish was indebted to his good humour for an assembly and a bowling-green.

“ Whether you think with me, I know not,” adds he ; but “ the favourite maxim, *de mortuis nil nisi bonum*, always appeared to me to savour more of female weakness than of manly reason. He that has too much feeling to speak ill of the dead, who, if they cannot defend themselves, are at least ignorant of his abuse, will not hesitate, by the most wanton calumny, to destroy the quiet, the fortune, the reputation of the living. Yet censure is not heard beneath the tomb any more than praise.

“ *De mortuis nil nisi verum — De vivis nil nisi bonum*, would approach much nearer good sense. After all, the few handfuls of remaining dust, which once composed the body of the author of the ‘Night Thoughts,’ feel not much concern, whether Young pass now for a man of sorrow, or for a ‘fellow of infinite jest.’ To this savour must come the whole family of Yorick. His immortal part, wherever that now dwells, is still less solicitous on that head.”

Our author next enters on the task of proving, that the character of Lorenzo was not pourtrayed for Dr. Young’s own son; and, by repeated references to the text, he establishes this beyond a possibility of doubt. Dates, too, are called in by way of evidence, with a force and effect that put doubt and suspicion to silence. “The marriage, in consequence of which the supposed Lorenzo was born, happened in May 1731. Young’s child was not born till June 1733. In 1741 (when the poem was commenced), this Lorenzo, this finished infidel, this youth, to whose education vice had for some time put the last hand, was only eight years old. An anecdote of this cruel sort, so open to contradiction, so impossible to be true, who could propagate? Thus, easily, are blasted the reputations of the living and of the dead.”

Mr. Croft, while on this subject, hazards the following strange assertion: — “Young was a poet; poets, with reverence be it spoken, do not make the best parents; fancy and imagination,” adds he, “seldom deign to stoop from their heights; always stoop unwillingly to the low level of common duties. Aloof from vulgar life, they pursue their rapid flight beyond the ken of mortals, and descend not to earth but when compelled by necessity. The prose of ordinary occurrences is beneath the dignity of poets.”

Notwithstanding all this, we now distinctly learn, that Young, who died at the age of eighty-four, was actually a bad father, or had a bad son for his offspring!

It ought not to be here forgotten, that Dr. Johnson never parted with Mr. Croft, during the time he was collecting materials for this life, without recurring to the adventure already

hinted at, which occurred at All Souls, and exclaiming, — “Don’t forget that rascal Tindall, Sir! Be sure to hang up the atheist!”

Soon after this period, Mr. Croft, as has been already mentioned, entertained serious thoughts of quitting the law, and entering into holy orders. Had he persevered, and been fortunate, the highest honours of the bar were now open to his ambition; and the road to the Woolsack and the Chancery bench was both straighter and shorter, perhaps, than that to Canterbury and Lambeth. However, there is no arguing against prepossessions; more especially, when an individual thinks he has a vocation for any particular calling; and the subject of this memoir, after having thrown away the labours of many years, and spent a considerable sum of money, at length discovered, that his taste had always been for the church, rather than the bar.

He accordingly disposed of his chambers in Lincoln’s-Inn, and repaired once more to Oxford. While there, in the Autumn of 1782, he wrote a postscript to the life of Young, in which he tells Dr. Johnson, “how much he is honoured and bettered by his friendship; and if I do credit to the church,” adds he, “after which I always longed, and for which I am now going to give in exchange the bar, though not at as late a period as Young took orders, it will be owing, in no small measure, to my having had the happiness of calling the author of ‘The Rambler’ my friend.

“H. C.”

To have been the coadjutor of Dr. Johnson, was creditable of itself; and, to have obtained the esteem of that great man, who could not be persuaded to alter any thing but a single sentence bestowed in his own praise, will be deemed by most, a rare instance of felicity on the part of a person then wholly unknown. And yet, after all, this life abounds with doubt, ambiguity, and indecision. A great degree of hesitation is used, both in respect to the author of the ‘Night Thoughts and his son; and the biographer seems to think, like his friend, in re-

spect to Addison, "that it is proper rather to say nothing that is false, than all that is true."

So early as 1775, Mr. Croft had commenced his literary career by means of a small volume, entitled "A Brother's Advice to his Sisters." His "Love and Madness," published about 1780, containing the story of the unfortunate Miss Ray, who was shot by her lover, the Reverend Mr. Hackman, in a series of letters\*, produced considerable sensation in the public mind; and occasioned great enquiry after the anonymous author.

As he was a man of indefatigable industry, after the demise of our great Lexicographer, Mr. Croft conceived the idea of publishing an improved edition of Johnson's Dictionary.† Proposals were actually published in 1792, but the list of subscribers was not sufficiently encouraging to hazard so ponderous and expensive an undertaking. This must have operated as a great discouragement to Mr. Croft's literary pursuits: for he had purchased a number of books, &c. and actually studied the northern languages, with an express view to this undertaking.

Meanwhile, his cousin, Sir John, the fourth Baronet, having died in 1797, the title devolved on the subject of this memoir; but as it was unaccompanied with the ancient patrimony, it proved no great subject of gratulation. At this time too he

\* These letters are given as a correspondence supposed to have passed between Miss Ray, mistress to the Earl of Sandwich, and the unfortunate Mr. Hackman, who was deeply smitten with her charms; and by whom she was assassinated. They are very well written, and contain a very pathetic and interesting account of the story of Chatterton; indeed, we are of opinion, that this author is the only one who has done real justice to Chatterton's memory.

"Mr. Hackman figures as the historian of Chatterton, and the whole, though 'borrowed personages' (as the late Lord Orford expresses it), is a most ingenious fiction."

† "A new edition of Johnson's Dictionary, corrected, without the smallest omission; considerably improved, and enlarged with more than twenty thousand words; illustrated by examples from the books quoted by Dr. Johnson, and from others of the best authority in our own, and former times."—*Advert.*

It appears from the proposals circulated on this occasion, that the subscription was to be 12 guineas: half to be paid at the time of subscribing, and half on the delivery of the third volume. This splendid design was rendered abortive for want of management, as he could not secure a sufficient number of subscribers, after long and ineffectual attempts even to secure an indemnification for the expences of paper and printing; without any remuneration for his own labours!



was married, and had children; so that the baronetcy instead of an honour, most probably must have been deemed an incumbrance.

In the course of the same year, we find Sir Herbert on the Continent\*; for about that time, he published a letter to the Princess Royal of England, now Queen-Dowager of Wirtemberg, "on the English and German languages;" accompanied by a table of the "Northern languages." This was always a favourite subject with him. When the late Mr. Manning†, in consequence of his acknowledged skill in Saxon literature, most happily translated and illustrated the will of King Alfred, from the original in Mr. Astle's library, our author was selected to superintend the printing, and conduct the whole through the Oxford press. This was accomplished in a way to do credit to the Editor.

Having been disappointed twice in his life, first as a lawyer, when he conceived the plan of a new edition of the statutes; and next as a man of letters, when he issued proposals for a Dictionary of the English tongue; and being also destitute of preferment in the Church, it is but little wonder, that Sir Herbert Croft should be considered as a disappointed man. Indeed, some years since, he disposed of his extensive library; and in 1801, retired to France with a very scanty income. It would appear from public documents, that a pension of 200*l.* per annum had however, been enjoyed by him for a considerable time; and it

\* He was at Hamburgh, in 1796; and, in a letter from that city, he observes as follows: — "After editing King Alfred's will, in the Anglo-Saxon language, I determined on what I had through so many years wished for an opportunity of doing. I resolved with Skinner, Junius, Hickes, and Johnson in my hand, to ascend the ancient stream of the Elbe, for the purpose of visiting the fountain-head of the English tongue."—He received about this period a superb gold medal from the King of Sweden.

† The Reverend Owen Manning, F. R. S. and F. R. A. was educated at Queen's College, Cambridge, where he obtained the degree of M. A. in 1744; and that of B. D. in 1753. Having been nominated Chaplain to Dr. Thomas, Bishop of Lincoln, he procured through the patronage of that Prelate the Prebend of Milton Ecclesia. Mr. Nicholls, in vol. ix. p. 446. of "Literary Anecdotes of the Eighteenth Century," observes, "that to the literary part of his own country, Mr. M. performed a most acceptable task, in taking up, and by unwearied application completing the Saxon Dictionary began by his friend the Reverend Edward Lye." This work was published in 2 vols. folio, 1772.

might have been wished perhaps, that this grant had been increased in favour of so meritorious an individual, whose zeal and loyalty were so frequently displayed in various publications. He never returned again to England, having died at Paris in April, 1816, at the age of sixty-five.

Sir Herbert Croft was a man, who to great erudition, and a most extensive knowledge of the ancient Saxon, as well as modern German and French languages, united a high reputation for social talents. He had been twice married; first to Sophia, daughter of R. Cleeve, Esq. by whom he had three daughters; and secondly to Elizabeth, sister of Henry Greswold Lewis, of Malvern Hall, in the county of Warwick, Esq. and Sarah, Countess of Dysert, by whom there is no issue.

No one more sincerely rejoiced at the restoration of the Bourbons. On the occurrence of that event, he addressed "Congratulatory Verses" to the Duchess of Angouleme; and also "Reflections," addressed to the Congress at Vienna. Both of these were written, printed, and published in Paris.

#### *List of the Works*

##### *Of the Rev. Sir Herbert Croft, Bart. and B. C. L.*

1. Life of Dr. Young, inserted in Johnson's Lives of the Poets.
2. A Brother's Advice to his Sisters, 12mo. 1775.
3. Love and Madness, a story, too true; in a series of letters, 12mo. 1780.
4. Fanaticism and Treason, or a dispassionate history of the Rebellious Insurrection in June, 1780. 8vo.
5. The Literary Fly, 1780. The first number appeared Jan. 18, 1789.
6. Some Account of an intended Publication of the Statutes on a new plan, 1782. 8vo.
7. Sunday Evening Discourses, 1784. 8vo.
8. Letter from Germany to the Princess Royal of England, on the English and German Languages; with a Table of the Northern Languages. Hamburgh, 1797. 4to.

9. Hints for History, respecting the attempt on the King's Life, May 15, 1800.

10. Proposals for publishing by subscription a new edition of Johnson's Dictionary; corrected without the smallest omission; considerably improved, and enlarged with more than twenty-thousand words; illustrated by examples from the books quoted by Dr. Johnson, and by others, of the best authority in our own and former times.

N. B. The subscription 12 guineas. 1792.

11. Congratulatory Verses on the Restoration of the Bourbons, addressed to the Duchess of Angouleme, 4to. Paris, 1814; and —

12. Reflections for the consideration of the Congress at Vienna, 8vo. Paris, 1814.

The Rev. Sir Herbert Croft, was succeeded in the baronetcy by his younger brother, the present Sir Richard Croft, a distinguished *accoucheur*.

*He died in 1818.*

## No. II.



DAVID WILLIAMS, Esq.

FOUNDER OF THE LITERARY FUND, AND AUTHOR OF SEVERAL  
TREATISES ON EDUCATION.

[*With an Analysis of his principal Works.*]

THE life of this extraordinary man is replete with incident. It is difficult, however, to designate his station with exact propriety: for if the character of a Priest be *indelible*, as was maintained in Parliament, while discussing the case of a celebrated Philologist, he never could divest himself of that title and office. Certain it is, however, that like the Author of ΕΠΙΕΛ ΠΤΕΡΟΕΝΤΑ, he considered this as one of the many politic maxims of the Romish Church, which had become obsolete and of no avail, posterior to the reformation. Like him, therefore, he deemed himself, of late years, a layman, and always was styled, and wished to be considered, as well as addressed, in the character of a private gentleman.

In respect to his memoirs, ample materials exist relative to all the principal epochs. He was known to a wide circle of men of letters; and by founding, as well as presiding for many years, over a great, flourishing, popular, and benevolent institution, his name, character, and actions, have become familiar to the public at large. A gentleman \* indeed, while he was yet alive, actually wrote and published his life, a task for which he had become eminently qualified by a long and intimate acquaintance; while the author of the present article has seen, perused, and had in his possession, a manuscript Biography, compiled under his immediate inspection, and corrected by his own hand.

David Williams was a native of Wales, having been born at an obscure village near Cardigan, in 1738. His father, once possessed considerable property, but in consequence of some unsuccessful speculations in that species of *underground lottery* connected with mines, his circumstances became embarrassed, and he removed from his former place of abode to the above county, with a family consisting of several children. While these were sent to a neighbouring school for education, the elder Mr. Williams endeavoured to seek for refuge from the reflections incident to his misfortunes, by associating with the Methodists, who then, as now, were extremely numerous in the principality. But not content with the consolations derived from religion, he determined to extend them to his children; and actually proposed to dedicate one of these to the ministry; indeed it appears to have been the very pinnacle of his ambition to have beheld his dearly beloved David a teacher, or as he was pleased to express it, a *Saint* among this class of Sectaries. He was accordingly educated, at Carmarthen, expressly for this purpose.

\* The late Captain Thomas Morris, who lived for many years, in the most unreserved friendship, and familiarity with Mr. Williams. They met and conversed daily; but at length, a coolness unhappily intervened, and not only their intimacy, but even their acquaintance ceased.

The Captain was one of the early promoters of the literary fund, and actually appeared in the character of Richard III. for the benefit of that institution.

The son, however, according to his own candid confession, was utterly unqualified for the self-denial and austerities of an evangelical life. Gay, sprightly, and ardent, his bosom languished for pleasure; he wished to mingle with the world at large; and soon began to hold in abhorrence all those "formalities and grimaces" which were scrupulously required of one, who aspired to something approximating to inspiration. Two circumstances chiefly concurred, however, in fixing his wavering resolutions: the one was the extreme poverty of his family; the other, the dying injunctions of a fond parent: these powerfully co-operating in the present instance, and no other provision indeed, offering, to administer to his necessities he finally consented to submit to the usual preparatory forms, which it may be easily supposed, were neither tedious nor expensive.

We now behold him, while still a youth, officiating in the character of a minister, at Frome, in Somersetshire. Although he had then scarcely attained the age of manhood, yet he appears to have actually become a popular preacher. As a convincing proof of this, it is only necessary to state, that at twenty-two, such was his reputation for piety and zeal, that he received an invitation to the city of Exeter. On this occasion he underwent the requisite formalities of a new ordination; and as he was now called upon to preside over an Arian congregation, it is evident that he had changed his Methodistical principles, for those of a class of dissenters, then, as now, not very numerous.

Being both young and volatile, he appears, however, to have been still unsettled as to religious tenets; for soon after this we find him engaged in a plan to introduce a Socinian liturgy among his new flock. A society for this purpose, had actually been formed at the Octagon Chapel, in Liverpool, and Mr. Williams appears to have had such a firm hold of the consciences of his congregation as to induce them to adopt it. Yet, he did not long remain with those who had thus implicitly submitted to his controul. Two different reasons have been assigned for his quitting the West of England: he on his part, urged the hypocrisy of his associates; while his enemies,

on the other hand, insinuated that notwithstanding the apparent, and perhaps real fervour of his devotions, the preacher who had proved unable to subdue his own passions, was not exactly fitted either for his charge or his functions.

Be this as it may, certain it is that Mr. Williams repaired to London for the express purpose of improving his condition; and it is a most convincing proof that his conduct could not have been very obnoxious, either at Frome or Exeter, when it is recollected, that he was now cordially received by a new flock, and for some time actually did duty at a Dissenting Meeting-house, at Highgate. Here he preached a course of sermons "On Religious Hypocrisy," which discourses were afterwards published. He also appears at this time to have mingled freely with the world at large, and to have often frequented the play-houses; for he now began to write theatrical criticisms, and to enter into discussions on various important subjects. Accordingly, about this time, appeared a "Letter to Mr. Garrick, on his conduct and talents as a manager and performer;" and also "The Philosopher," consisting of three political conversations, dedicated to Lord Mansfield, and the Bishop of Gloucester.

Nearly at the same period, a respectable, if not a numerous portion of the clergy of the Church of England, appears to have wished to be relieved from certain conscientious scruples. They accordingly assembled at the 'Feathers' Tavern, in Leicester-fields, and being joined by a great many Dissenting Ministers, a petition for relief in respect to subscription to the thirty-nine articles, was immediately agreed upon. On this occasion, the assistance of Mr. Williams is said to have been invoked. Certain it is, that he penned "Essays on Public Worship, Patriotism, and Projects of Reformation," but on this, as on former occasions, he was thought to have leaned too much towards Deism, for an Orthodox Dissenter; and in an appendix, soon after subjoined, he openly attacked the creed of his former associates, of whom he now took leave, for ever.

During some years, a new and great scheme had been brooding in his mind, which he now determined to carry into

immediate execution. It appeared to him that the system of education, then destined for youth, was not adapted to the age in which he lived; many essential branches of instruction, he thought, were omitted in our great schools; while the colleges, founded in times of Monkish superstition, were liable to serious and insuperable objections. Actuated by these considerations, in 1772, Mr. Williams determined to establish an academy, in the immediate vicinity of the metropolis, and adopting the plan of John Amos Comenius, the celebrated grammarian and divine, who had been invited to this country about the time of the civil wars, to reform the English schools, as a model; he accordingly settled at Chelsea. As it was absolutely necessary that a female should preside over his household, about this time also, he married a young lady, for whom he had long entertained a great regard.

He once informed the author of this article, that his success on the present occasion was astonishing. Notwithstanding he had left the Methodists, and quarrelled with the Dissenters, yet, no sooner had he published his *prospectus*, in which he suggested his intended improvements, than his house filled apace. To encrease his success, he, at the same time, published a treatise on education, in a small volume, for the purpose of a more easy and rapid circulation.

While at Chelsea, Mr. Williams resided near to the river, in Laurence-street, and if we are not greatly misinformed, in the very house, at one time occupied by the late Mrs. Macauley, the historian. About this period, the important subject of education, began in an eminent degree, to engage the public attention; and while the writings of Milton and Locke, on this subject, were read with eagerness, the new notions inculcated with an extraordinary degree of eloquence, and for a time, with an extraordinary degree of effect also, by Rousseau, occupied the minds and speculations of every one.

The subject of this narrative appears to have not only considered a school as a *microcosm*, or little organised world of itself, but also to have wished to introduce every thing there, either useful or ornamental in actual life. On this occasion it



was uniformly observed by him, that he experienced far less obstruction from indocility on the part of children, than from the obstinacy and prejudices of their parents. With a commendable zeal, he insisted as a first principle, that a strict adherence to truth should be ever held a sacred as well as immutable rule of conduct; and to attain this practice, setting aside all ideas of duty, in a moral sense, he proved it to be the *interest* of his pupils, to avoid and abhor every thing connected with a lie. To procure their confidence, and avoid even the appearance of superiority, he himself, would enter into the class with them, and submit himself, like the youngest boy in the school, to the inspection and controul of the usher. All personal punishments were prohibited; nothing was effected by authority alone; thus arbitrary proceedings of every kind were most scrupulously avoided. But he produced the wished for effect, and that too in a higher and better degree, by introducing among his pupils, a lively emblem of the noble institutions of their native country; and punishing, not according to the caprice, ill humour, or interested partiality of a pedagogue; but by written rules adapted to the state of the society. Accordingly, a body of laws was formed, in a general assembly, and these were enforced by means of a trial by jury, every one readily submitting to the verdict of his peers.

It was his wish, to connect and combine familiar objects with every branch of science. Thus, he is represented as teaching geography by gradual surveys of a house, a neighbourhood, or a district, while the previous view of a blacksmith's shop or a kitchen garden, led to the study of mineralogy and botany. The principles of drawing and mensuration were taught at the desk; but the practice of both was afterwards elucidated and endeared by little excursions, for the purpose of effecting the execution, in a practical point of view.

Somewhat like the Bellian and Lancasterian plan of appointing monitors, appears also to have been adopted; while finance, and other branches of statistical studies were introduced into the higher classes. It was the opinion of the subject of this article, that globes and maps should be made,

not bought; and to effect this purpose, with ability, that the assistance of artists should be invoked, in the first instance. He also connected the elements of history with geography in all its branches, and appears, about this period, to have had a "Secretary to an embassy," as one of his private pupils, who was very conversant, indeed, in respect to languages, but utterly incompetent to resolve any of the common problems so familiar to all those acquainted with the first principles of geography and astronomy.

With his ordinary scholars, he constantly referred to the "Collection Academique" and the French "Encyclopedie," when information was wanted for the accomplishment of some purpose, or the formation of some machine; and he found the impressions, thus conveyed, to be lasting. He deemed the age of thirteen or fourteen fitted to comprehend the doctrine of air, the construction of pumps, the science of hydrostatics, and the pursuits of chemistry. Mr. Williams considered the essays of the late Dr. Watson, Bishop of Llandaff, as among the most useful and entertaining books for children.

In short, "he pursued, in practice, the plan which Rousseau had sketched from imagination;" and he thought "that the fruitless efforts of the mind, in infancy, to understand the subtleties of grammar, the ambiguities of poetry, or the mysteries of metaphysics, were generally succeeded by an indolent acquiescence fatal to all great or manly exertions."

But another great and leading object, during this period of his life, was a new system of faith; for the subject of this memoir wished to amend the religion of the nation, in the same manner, and at the same time, as its education; and thus, like a young man, by attempting too much, at one time, actually effected little or nothing! About this period, the unhappy and unfortunate contest with our American colonies took place, and a native of the Trans-Atlantic Continent; who had distinguished himself both as the greatest electrician of his age, and the most strenuous assertor of the rights of his insurgent countrymen, became apprehensive of his personal safety. At the new institution, at Chelsea, he, for some time, found both

a secure and hospitable asylum.\* In conjunction with, or rather at the instigation, perhaps, of this celebrated man, who undoubtedly assisted in the formation of his code of ethics, Mr. Williams drew up the system of a new religious faith, the creed of which was confined to a single article. Here follows an exact transcript of it :

*“ I believe in God ! — Amen.”*

And it may not be improperly observed, in this place, that when the independence of America was declared, and ascertained, this became the sole subscription required from any of the citizens of the new republic. A Common Prayer Book was also compiled, on a similar plan, in respect to brevity; but whether it resembled that now adopted in another hemisphere, in which all repetitions are avoided, is difficult to resolve without an absolute reference to both. Some doubts, perhaps, may exist in the minds of many, as to the actual participation of the philosopher, just alluded to, in the plan under consideration. But these are now obviated in the fullest and most satisfactory manner; for the writer of this article has been lately assured by the grandson of the late Dr. Franklin, that Mr. Williams obtained his assistance in the simplification and arrangements of a new liturgy. After it had been printed, in 1776, he transmitted copies, not only to several distinguished persons in England, but also on the Continent. The following is the reply to the letter accompanying it, from Frederick the Great, who, as it is evident from the address, was deceived both as to his character and profession, having taken him for

\* In lecture xxxvi. vol. iii. p. 24. Mr. Williams refers to this incident, which the writer of this article has, indeed, heard him mention, in conversation, with becoming pride. “ At the time to which I refer, a philosopher of considerable fame, (Dr. F.) whom fortune had forced into politics, took refuge from a political storm, in our family; and entered with ease, the characteristic of genius, into several of its employments. I observed he was particularly pleased with the early application of arithmetical dexterity, to questions of obvious or important use. All those calculations on the power of compound interest, in annihilating debts or accumulating property, were made as amusements, which have since raised political writers into high degrees of reputation.”

a man of rank and title. Were it permitted, at this distance of time, to guess at the occasion of the mistake, it might be fairly attributed to the resemblance of his name to that of the late Sir Charles Hanbury Williams, K. B. well known at home on account of his poetry; and abroad by his diplomatic station, having been minister first at the court of Berlin, and afterwards at that of St. Petersburg :

“ M. le Chevalier Williams,

“ Je viens de recevoir à la suite de votre lettre du 20 du mois de Mai dernier, l'ouvrage, que des sentiments de liberté et de conviction vous ont fait donner au public sous le titre d'Essai sur la Liturgie. Votre attention dans cet envoi me fait plaisir, et c'est pour vous en témoigner mes remerciements que je vous fais la présente, priant Dieu en même tems sur ce, qu'il ait M. le Chevalier Williams en sa sainte et digne garde.

“ FREDERIC.

“ A POTSDAM,

“ le 10 d'Août 1776.”

This letter, the language of which in a grammatical point of view, is very questionable, was accompanied by another from M. de Catt, private Secretary to his Prussian Majesty, in which he pays many compliments to our author, assures him how much the king is interested in the success of so accomplished a man, and begs he would transmit all his literary productions for his perusal.

The “ Philosopher of Ferney,” nearly at the same time, acknowledged the receipt of his liturgy, in a very elegant epistle:

“ I have perused it,” observes he, “ with all the pleasure that a Rosicrucian would enjoy in reading the work of an adept. It is a great comfort to me, at the age of eighty-two years, to see toleration openly taught and asserted in your country, and the God of all mankind no longer pent up in a narrow tract of land. That noble truth was worthy

of your pen and your tongue. I am, with all my heart, one of your followers, and of your admirers ; and with much respect,

Your most humble

Obedient servant,

VOLTAIRE."

Mr. Raspe, a learned German, then residing in London, seems also to have approved of his labours, and Mr. Bode, of Ham-  
burgh, to have been enthusiastic in the praise of the "good Samaritan, Williams." In addition to these testimonies, may be added that of M. Teller, an eminent divine of Berlin, who congratulated him, in English, about the same period, "on his intention to establish a worship for universal believers in the Deity ; and I am very glad," adds he, "to see this now performed, and the external forms of devotion, according to your intention, very well executed ; for it cannot be denied that the belief of the one Supreme Being, and the study of universal benevolence, are the most important articles of the Christian Religion itself.

"But I am now very desirous to know what approbation your worship has found in (with) the public ?

"I send you by this occasion (opportunity) a specimen of (a) like form of worship, proposed by Mr. Basedon, at Dessau, in the principality of Anhalt. I wish it may have your approbation, and that all your endeavours for promoting a reasonable religion may succeed.

"I am, with great esteem,

"Your humble and obedient servant,

"BERLIN,

"TELLER.

"*July 20, 1776.*"

Meanwhile, the academy at Chelsea continued to prosper ; for although the terms were so high as to circumscribe the pupils to the children of opulent parents alone, yet such was the reputation of this institution, that the number of students were seen, not gradually, but rapidly to increase. However,

all at once a stop was put to the projects and the prosperity of Mr. Williams, by the sudden death of a dearly beloved wife.

This domestic calamity quite unmanned him. So much, indeed, was he affected by the melancholy incident, which appears to have been equally sudden and unexpected, that he actually eloped from the scene of his afflictions, and leaving his scholars to shift for themselves, abandoned his residence without consulting any one. Overwhelmed with grief, and utterly incapable of attending to business, he now secluded himself in a distant county, during a period of many months, and seemed not only desirous but resolved, to avoid all intercourse with mankind.

Having thus voluntarily relinquished the emoluments and advantages resulting from his new establishment, and rejected all the favours of fortune, at the precise moment when, for the first time in his life, she appeared ready to befriend him, Mr. Williams, on recovering from his sorrows, like his father on a different occasion, seemed to seek both for help and consolation, in religion.

Soon after this he determined to extend his plans, in order to communicate with, and include others, who either thought in the same manner with himself, or might be disposed to adopt his ideas. He accordingly opened a chapel in Margaret-street, Cavendish-square, and it is not here meant to be concealed, that the mode of worship was after a new and unauthorised system. But as this did not prove popular, even in a small degree, being entirely confined to about a score of auditors, success was of course wanting. Indeed, little wonder will ensue, when it is recollected that the spirit and forms of this institution, were equally hostile both to churchmen and regular dissenters. Notwithstanding his total failure on this occasion, which was readily anticipated by several of his friends, he published his inauguration sermon. This was soon after followed by two volumes of lectures on the universal principles of religion and morality.

As it was now evident, that the subscriptions had become utterly inadequate to defray even the expences incident to

the plan selected for public worship; and the auditors had proved scarcely sufficient to fill a common sized room, he was, at length, persuaded to assemble them in one. At the suggestion of the late General Melville, \* a man of amiable charac-

\* This gentleman afterwards published his *own creed*, which is here subjoined, together with the note which accompanied it, both being addressed to a learned Divine and D.D. who has favoured the Editor with them.

" Inclosed is a copy of a Philosophical Creed, which, while seeming to be in itself of the *strictest truth*, yet is so *comprehensive* in its principles, as to admit any applications of them, most conducive to its great object, (as expressed in the 7th Article,) by all persons, however much differing in their particular persuasions or professions, on the heads of revealed religions, or political constitutions; even from the direct opposites, namely, the mere rationalist, and the most devout religionist; the freest *Ethnocrate*, and the most absolute *Monocrate*, who all agree in the *object*, but differ in the *best* road to it.

Brewer-street, 31st August, 1792.

*Multum in Parvo.*

## A C R E E D.

NATURAL, INVARIABLE, AND FUNDAMENTAL ;

*Ending where most Creeds begin, yet in so far introductory to them as their contents may be found to be conformable to it.*

1st. That by my nature, I now am, and ever have been, while awake, and in a state of sensibility, *passively* existing, under an incessant succession of CONSCIOUS SENSATIONS OR RESENSATIONS, produced by causes internal or external; both these sensations and resensations, naturally and necessarily implying my *existence*; but the latter only so implies my *identity*.

2d. That also by my conscious sensations and resensations, produced by causes external, is as naturally and necessarily implied, the existence of these externals of nature around me; and these two sorts of sensation, internally and externally caused, are the sole and invariable sources of my knowledge of my own existence, and that of external nature.

3d. That there ever has been, is, and must be, an EXISTENCE.

4th. That the EXISTENCE eternal or infinite in duration or time, must be also infinite in extension or space; for any utmost limits to either are not conceivable.

5th. That the eternal and infinite EXISTENCE must be either NATURE UNIVERSAL, or an eternal and infinite CAUSE of nature, which did create, does sustain, and might annihilate NATURE.

6th. That which ever of the two, be the eternal and infinite existence, whether nature or nature's cause, is as unnecessary as impossible for man by *his nature only*, to know.

7th. That the best *state* of nature, with the best *use* of it by man, in as far as naturally productive of his greatest sum of *happiness* in all stages of his existence, whether in INDIVIDUALITY or SOCIETY, is ever the most essential object of his nature.

8th. That this most essential object is naturally self-evident to, and so enjoyed by man, while an individual in solitude, or is competently attainable by him in that state, from the best use of nature and experience.

ter, and unimpeachable morals, an apartment in the British Coffee-House, Charing-Cross, was accordingly selected for this purpose; and the congregation, which had now dwindled to twelve or fourteen, accordingly assembled there, for a considerable period. The wits of that day were accustomed to remark that the dinner, accompanied by excellent Madeira, and no small share both of good humour and hospitality usually given by the above-named patron of the institution, in Brewer-street, after the lecture, operated as no small inducement to attendance.

When this establishment had closed, Mr. Williams engaged in a variety of literary works, and being fully sensible of the numerous calamities to which authors in general are not unfrequently liable in a peculiar degree, particularly in this country, he conceived the happy idea, if not of annihilating, at least of alleviating the misfortunes of this class of men. Accordingly, he associated with a few friends, whose numbers at first did not exceed six; and of these the narrator is unluckily enabled to name only two, besides himself, viz. Captain Morris, the elder brother of a gentleman whose Lyric Muse has often prolonged the midnight festivities of the metropolis, and gladdened the hearts of all those assembled around the convivial board; together with the Rev. John Gardiner, since deceased, but then Vicar of Battersea.\* The sudden death of

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9th. That this fundamental and important truth, although by nature in man, it was not only prior to, and independent of, any HUMAN LAWS OR REVEALED RELIGION, but must still be equally so in a supposed state of totally uneducated and perfectly solitary individuality; yet in *that* of society it will admit or require the concurring aids of both law and religion, in as far as they may be useful or necessary for the said most essential object.

10th. That, lastly, the expediency or necessity in society for these aids from law and religion, will be precisely in proportion to the deficiency or inefficacy of the best use of *right* reason or *natural* religion; and the degree of perfection in both laws and religions for mankind, must necessarily and exactly be in the *ratio* of their conformity and conduciveness to the most essential object of human nature, as stated in the 7th article of this Creed.

London, 1792."

\* Perhaps, the name of Mr. John Nichols, F. S. A. author of the *History of Leicestershire, Literary Anecdotes, &c. &c.* ought to be added to the founders already named.



the learned and accomplished Floyer Sydenham, M. A. of Wadham College, Oxford, in extreme poverty, and literally of a broken heart, originally attracted their attention, and proved not a little favourable to their infant institution, in consequence of the sensations produced by that melancholy event. It was at first intended, under the idea of supporting and encouraging obscure, but meritorious writers, to publish their works for their own exclusive benefit; but it soon became apparent, that this would be converting the founders into book-sellers; and that the trouble, risk, and uncertainty of such an undertaking, would swallow up their scanty funds, and annihilate all their beneficent projects. It was accordingly determined, after some ineffectual experiments, to confine themselves to *occasional relief*. Even this contracted plan, for a long time assumed an inauspicious aspect; but, at length, recourse was wisely had to publicity. Annual dinners were arranged and advertised; popular noblemen were selected as Presidents and Vice Presidents; while respectable Gentlemen became Stewards and Registrars. In addition to this, a regular committee was formed, and at length a house for the institution was selected and rented in a central situation. Subscriptions and benefactions now flowed in apace; and a posthumous donation from a namesake and descendant of Sir Isaac Newton, at length contributed to give stability to the system. It might appear both invidious and indelicate, to mention the names of men who are still alive; but, it may be allowed to observe, that the author of this narrative has himself recommended and procured occasional assistance for one of the greatest mathematicians now existing in Great Britain, with whose feelings on this occasion, he had a long and almost hopeless contest.

Although the funds, as already observed, were at first scanty, and their powers of beneficence necessarily circumscribed, yet, Mr. Williams, and his worthy associates proceeded with undiminished ardour in their career, and, in the course of twelve years, they appear from the registers to have distributed the sum of 1680*l.* 8*s.* among one hundred and five persons. Since that period, from causes already assigned, their

sphere of action has encreased, and many eminent persons who have powerfully contributed to the amusement and the instruction of their countrymen, have had their necessities supplied, in a limited, it is true, but, assuredly, in a delicate and satisfactory manner. The learned Dr. H—— (now no more), was relieved from his temporary embarrassments through this channel. The institution has lately contributed to the education of the orphan son of a celebrated poet; while the last moments of the celebrated Mr. Ar. M—— were cheered by its judicious beneficence.

After this short, but it is hoped, interesting digression, we shall return to the subject of these memoirs.

In the year 1789, appeared “Lectures on Education: read to a Society for promoting reasonable and humane Improvements in the Discipline and Instruction of Youth; by the Rev. David Williams;” in 3 vols. 8vo. The first of these was dedicated to the Duchess of Devonshire; the second, to the Duchess of Northumberland; and the third, to Mrs. Blair; all of whom were complimented on their attention to this interesting subject; while the two former received due praise for the truly maternal care with which they had reared their offspring.

Vol. I. contains sixteen Lectures; the first of which is occupied with the subject of “parental love.” Next follow general observations, and explanatory remarks. In Lect. IV. and V. it is laid down as a maxim, “that Schools ought to be the Images of Life:” VI. contains an account of the private attempts to reform public customs: VII. “Moral Seasons:” VIII. on the “Activity and Curiosity of Children:” IX. “Natural History:” X. “Parental Substitutes:” XI. “Advantages of Public, compared with those of retired Situations:” and XII. “the Learning and Science of Infancy.” All the remainder are dedicated to a consideration of the “Virtues of Infancy;” and, “the Propriety of, as well as advantages resulting from, a Love of Truth.”

Parental tenderness is a principle, which when virtuously and affectionately founded, leads, we are told, to the great-

est and best actions, and has "immortality for its object in the prosperity and happiness of a family." "But, it is mischievous and fatal," adds our author, "if not conducted by reason and virtue." "Mistaken indulgence by parents of weak and ordinary understandings, and the effects of that fondness which spoils children, by over nursing, saving them trouble, and fostering their caprices, do not come under consideration at this time. Too much care and attention to save them trouble, may be sometimes owing to real affection under the directing weak judgment; but the common indulgence of children in their caprices, proceeds from the want of sufficient affection, or a selfish regard to our own ease. To pursue steady and salutary measures, necessary to the health, education, and happiness of children, may be often attended with pain and anguish to ourselves, but hardly ever to them. Parents usually allege, in excuse for not adjusting deviations, that they have not the heart to correct; that they cannot bear to see children suffer, or to hear them cry. With the affectation of tenderness, they are guilty of actual inhumanity; they suffer the springs and principles of their future characters to be weakened and injured, because they have not sufficient affection to extend their desires and views to the general happiness of their offspring: and the probability and prospect of future wretchedness make no impressions on their hearts. But they cannot bear to have little caprices checked, or irregularities of temper smothered and adjusted; because, though they have no hearts, they have outward senses, which are affected and disturbed by the exclamations and complaints of the children. These parents are to be found in the class of *sentimental moralists*, who make high pretensions to virtuous affections, and who have no feeling but for themselves."

Mr. Williams considers "correction," as a brutal idea. "Bodily punishment," according to his system, "is never necessary with children, unless they have been injudiciously managed, and then it would not be used by a wise man, who had time to have recourse to inducements. Punishment," adds he, "is the expedient of ignorance and vice; as it is the

manner of a savage to use violence on a machine whose movements are obstructed. Wisdom never punishes because it can adjust; and it corrects errors by removing their causes. Children, who have the good fortune to be under the direction of wise and virtuous parents, by having their little deviations observed and adjusted in time, enjoy present happiness in a much greater degree than others; while the essential principles of future excellence are taking firm root in their minds."

Mr. W. also considers it as a common error on the part of parents, to contemplate riches as the means of happiness. He deems this error fatal to children; and he fancies it almost incredible, "that men, in a state of considerable civilization and knowledge, should have been generally employed in procuring for their children all the means of happiness except the capacity of enjoying it." "Parents," it is added, "either wholly neglect every rational method of forming the temper and character of infancy, or entrust it without choice or consideration to those, who offer on the cheapest terms; while they themselves pursue the arts of accumulating wealth, of obtaining honours, or procuring pleasures. Children form their opinions, and learn their morality, not from the lessons they occasionally hear, but from the examples before them. They disregard the formal precepts of low and wretched schoolmasters, and pant for the moment when they may accompany their parents in paths strewn with gold, and have their hours and days dissolved in pleasure.

"I have been severely animadverted upon, for presuming to charge the present times with barbarism. I should be glad to be directed in denominating the unnatural inattention and want of wise and manly regard, in parents for their offspring. Men and women of fortune seem to be the only unnatural brutes in the creation. They alone produce their children, without affection; and when born, they alone desert, or leave them to the care of any who will take them from mercenary motives. They cruelly withhold that food from their young which all other animals delight in administering; risk their lives to avoid the tender office of beneficent love; and prevent

the possibility of fanning the first sparks of domestic affection. And, when they have thrown their children into the hands of nurses and schoolmasters, they betake themselves with great satisfaction to cares and employments better suited to their capacities; and bestow expence, attention, and trouble, of which they think their children unworthy, on inferior animals, which they render proper associates for themselves. Is it wonderful, the children of such persons are not properly prepared for their stations?—that any foolish customs prevail in schools?—that we are taught as many languages as were given at Babel, and with the same effect of confusing and ruining our intellects?—and, that a method of making a child healthy, honest, virtuous, and intelligent, would be incomprehensible, or treated with ridicule?”

After these preliminary observations, we are told, that “education is the art of preparing a child for the duties of life.” The primary object of attention is the *body*. It requires both judgment and care, to assist its growth and health; and, to form the first organs of sensibility, so as to receive just impressions. The Spartan policy was far too rigorous and unrelenting: for the infant adjudged unlikely to become healthy and useful, was immediately put to death. This position is enforced, from the case of Agesilaus, whose debility and deformity had nearly procured his condemnation. Persons of a distinguished rank have in many instances been preserved from a lingering death by being snatched “from the bosom of an enervated mother, from the fetid air of her chamber, and the poison of cosmetics and perfumes, and put to the wholesome breast of a hardy peasant, suffered constantly to breathe the element in which it must live, and tossed and tumbled into life and activity. The heroes of antiquity are feigned to owe health, vigour, and prudence to this precaution. Cyrus could not have been the victor and idol of Asia, if he had been nurtured by Mandane; he is therefore said to have been brought up by shepherds. The founder of Rome was consigned to a wolf. Indeed any animal must be a better mother than a fine lady.”

Our author next censures "the injudicious and inhuman measures usually adopted under pretence of tenderness and kindness. Thus, the child is taught to dread every wind that blows; and is made to believe, that the element in which he is destined to live, is his greatest enemy. This is not a fanciful or exaggerated description. In communities called civilized, where riches are obtained by industry, but misemployed by injudicious luxury; where fortunes are provided for young people, and where young people are not prepared for the use or enjoyment of their fortunes; the greater number of those, not under the necessity of labour, are totally useless to the world. They live for the preservation of their lives; or, having been taught to apprehend injuries and dangers from earth, air, water, and every thing around them, they die daily, and undergo for years the terrors and injuries of a dissolution, which nature has ordained but once."

At length, when the faculties of the man develope; or, *when the soul has possession of the body*, the business of education is generally commenced. The first years of life, we are told, are left to ignorance or accident; and the disposition, bias, and character, thus formed at random, are either rendered means of distinction, or subject to the permanent restraints of prejudice and custom. "Education is an apprenticeship for the employments of life." What are those employments?—good husbands and wives; good parents; dutiful children; affectionate relations and friends; useful members of communities; and benevolent citizens of the world. The principles of these duties are in all men similar; and the measures to be taken with all children, to render them moral agents, are similar also. Education should consist not of precepts, but of exercises connected with such important situations. We never misapprehend the object, when qualifying youth for any inferior occupation or employment. In that case, we do not furnish maxims to be committed to memory; for, we see a good mason or carpenter cannot be formed by rules on the use of stone or of timber;—we exercise persons designed for such employments in their practical branches, and hardly ever fail of accomplish-

ing our purposes. This is the method pointed out by reason, by philosophy, and by the wisdom and practice of antiquity, in the instruction of man for the duties of life.

“ To act on public theatres, men are immured in colleges with priests ; and, to discharge the duties of society, women are shut up in nunneries and convents, or in boarding schools resembling them in inconveniences and vices. There, superstition, mechanic order, and poor unwholesome diet, check the vigour of the body and mind, or break the spirit into a disposition, to be ever insincere, hypocritical, and servile. This is the description of modern education.

“ Youth should be habituated to temperance ; and prepared for the accidents of life, even by occasional abstinence ; but, while children are guarded against intemperance, they should be fully fed with nutritive and generous food ; and the lessons of abstinence should appear to them to be moral, not economical. The present scanty diet has fatal effects on their constitutions. Disorders occasioned by repletion are easily removed ; those occasioned by inanition seldom or never. Children starved in our little schools, never become vigorous and healthy.” It is far worse, we are assured, in respect to females ; and it is here intimated as a general truth, that “ hardly a young person bred up at a boarding school, can suckle her own children !”

Do you wish to induce a child to love his brothers and sisters ?—do not enjoin it as a duty : for injunction cannot effect, it may obstruct, your purpose. Produce connexions, or good offices between them, and you will obtain the object. Do you wish to render a boy susceptible of the great passions of love, friendship, patriotism, and universal benevolence ? Do not inflame, or enfeeble his opening mind, with the glowing strains of ancient or modern eloquence on these subjects ; train him in the actual exercise and art of sacrificing present gratifications, to those at a little distance ; and teach him by repeated experience, that every pleasure is multiplied by the participation of others. This is the art of education.

Reason and custom are at variance in their motives ; and they differ in the means of acquiring their objects. The in-

structions of nature are by trial and experience; those of education, by words, manners, and precepts. Children when put to school, are literally *put to books*; under the care of a man, who is merely a librarian in authority. With him, learning is every thing; and the use of learning—is to be learned.

“The plan in general credit is, that of which authority or fear is the principle; for the same reason that arbitrary governments, under various forms have been generally established. Every understanding is competent to wield the sword of a despot; while the arrangements of political and civil liberty, seem to be barely within the reach of human talents. In education, every solemn and pedantic brute, may terrify feeble and helpless infancy into convulsive efforts: it may be barely in the power of the wisest mind to comprehend the tendencies and direction of the human frame; to assist without controlling its powers; and to correct its deviations, without destroying the spirit which may occasion them. In both cases, the easy method is adopted by ordinary understandings, who still exult in superiority of numbers, and in the difficulties which embarrass and defeat the efforts of those, who quit the public path, for the labyrinths of regulated liberty, or of reasonable education. These enthusiasts, these visionaries, as they are commonly denominated, are not likely to be reclaimed, or indeed, to relinquish their hopes, by the reproach and ridicule of opponents. Estimating the blessings of liberty, or of a reasonable and humane education, by effects in detached and imperfect instances, their imaginations form splendid ideas of perfect systems, executed with wisdom and probity. Though these ideas may never be realized, yet, like perfect forms and models in the arts, they are ever present to the mind of the artist, who enlarges his satisfaction and pleasure as he approaches and copies them.”

It was in vain that Mr. Williams attempted to obtain assistance from books; even Rousseau, proved unavailing, as he thought his plan of leaving children wholly to themselves, or to employ them only in such exercises as invigorate their bodies, “had so much the character of brutality, as to be inadmissible.” Notwithstanding this declaration, our author appears to have copied



the lessons of the author of *Emile*, on a variety of occasions, more especially when the latter took the ancients for his models.

Truth, he says, was his first object; and he soon found, that the exercise of authority was productive of hypocrisy; instead of "forcing," therefore, he recommends children to be "led" into employments. Were the "driving of a hoop, in the streets, to be assigned as a task," adds he, "the amusement would disappear, and this species of dexterity, resolution, and perseverance, would never attain its present perfection: the boy who now overcomes the difficulties of crowds, would then be obstructed by the first passenger, and wearied with the slightest exertion." His experience at length taught him, "that the common method defeats its own end by endeavouring to anticipate it; and that the first years of infancy are misemployed in studies which might prove the ornament or felicity, of more advanced periods."

In conjunction with one of his pupils, he commenced the study of natural history, a subject then but little known to himself; and he soon found that the boy was furnished with occupations suited to his powers, and boundless as his curiosity. The properties of wood and iron were examined, in their native forests and mines; and the labours of the carpenter and blacksmith superintended, when brought into use, for the purpose of trade and domestic economy. They also, at the same time, read "*Emile*," and "perceived its system to be a collection of maxims suited to ancient Greece, blended with the customs of American savages." But the fears, the jealousy, and intervention of the parents, soon put an end to these interesting pursuits.

On another occasion, to render untruth odious, our teacher appears to have actually obtained a lying boy, from a workhouse, by way of practically exhibiting to his scholars the danger, baseness, and inutility of such a base and cowardly habit.

He seems to have found the children of persons of condition, extremely perverse at first; but not half so much so, according to his notions, as their parents. The latter were irreclaimable!

"Children brought to me," observes he, "were vicious

men in miniature. The business of fashionable education, conducted with ostentation and expence in private families, is on the principles of artificial gardening; and the pupils are hot-house plants. Their progress and beauty dazzle or surprise superficial observers; but they sicken at the first breath of common air; they have latent insipidities discernible to a natural or accurate taste, and they fade or perish with the rapidity they sprung up.— My actual business was generally different from the direct execution of my plan. Quintilian says, those who would learn music of Timotheus, were obliged to pay double price, if they had any previous instruction. It required more judgment and delicacy than I could always command, to dissolve the meretricious charms of refined affectation or to correct passions forced into maturity, without exciting resentments, which would have disappointed all my purposes. The immediate danger was from the early formation of vicious habits; especially when the growth and vigour of premature passions were considered, by parents, as indications of superior characters.”

It was the fixed opinion of Mr. Williams, that without the confidence of the pupil all the important purposes of education are lost; and he seemed to think, that the character of a boy at school, is his character for life. In his time, he was only acquainted with three useful books: Comenius’s “*Janua Linguarum*,” “*Spectacle de la Nature*,” and the “*Preceptor*.” Happily since that period, we have been provided with a multitude of useful works, and it will be the fault both of the present and the next generation, if they be not more wise than the preceding ones.

It must have been seen in the course of this work, that Mr. Williams, while a young man, was eager to overturn many of what he deemed, the prevailing errors of the times; and if not a desperate zealot of political reform, that he was, at least, desirous of profiting by the lights and knowledge of the age in which he lived. He accordingly hailed the commencement of the French Revolution as an epoch peculiarly fortunate, not only for the nation itself, but also for the human species.

With some of the actors on this great scene he was personally acquainted, particularly with Brissot, whom he had known in England; and who, like himself, was not only addicted to literature, but had been at one time employed also, in the education of youth.

At an early period of the revolution, and while as yet it remained unsullied with crimes of any great magnitude, Mr. Williams, with Dr. Priestly, Sir James Mackintosh, and some other distinguished Englishmen, were declared French Citizens, by the Legislative Assembly. Soon after this, when Louis XVI. was at length persuaded to form a new administration from among those in direct opposition to his government, it was determined to invoke his assistance in the formation of a new constitution; and he was accordingly invited to Paris, by Roland, then minister of the home department. He accordingly repaired thither; but he was neither seduced by this flattering distinction, nor led to augur any but the most sinister events, from the character and conduct of those in power. He beheld the Jacobins active, indefatigable, and sanguinary; while on the other hand, he perceived that the Brissotins, as they were then called, were passive, credulous, and utterly incapable either of promptitude or decision.

Madame Roland, in her famous "Appeal to Impartial Posterity," while giving an account of her husband's second administration, expresses high respect for the talents of our author, as one of those connected with the new destinies of France.

"Paine," observes, this celebrated female, "is better calculated to make a revolution, than form a new constitution. He details and establishes those great principles, of which the exposition strikes every eye, gains the applauses of a club, or excites the enthusiasm of a tavern; but for cool discussion in a committee, or the regular labours of a legislator, I conceive David Williams infinitely more proper. Williams, although made a French citizen also, was not chosen a member of the convention, in which he would have been of more use; but was invited by the government to repair to Paris, where he passed several months, and frequently conferred with the most

active representatives of the nation. A profound thinker and a real friend to mankind, he appeared to me to combine their means of happiness, as well as Paine feels and describes the abuses which constitute their misery.

“ I saw him from the very first time, that he was present at the sittings of the assembly, uneasy at the disorder of the debates, afflicted at the influence exercised by the galleries and in doubt whether it were possible for such men, in such circumstances, ever to decree a national constitution. I cannot help thinking that the knowledge which he then acquired of what we were, attached him more strongly to his country, to which he was impatient to return. ‘How is it possible,’ said he to me, ‘for men to debate a question, who are incapable of listening to each other? Your nation does not even take pains to preserve that external decency which is of so much consequence in public assemblies: a giddy manner, carelessness, and a slovenly person, are no recommendations of a legislator; nor is any thing indifferent which passes in public, and of which the effect is repeated every day?’

“ Good heavens! what would he say at this time, if he were to see our senators dressed, since the 31st of May, like watermen in long trowsers, a jacket, and a cap, with the bosom of their shirts open, and swearing, and gesticulating like drunken *sans-culottes*? He would think it perfectly natural for the people to treat them like their lacqueys, and for the whole nation debased by its excesses, to crouch beneath the rod of the first despot who shall find means to reduce it to subjection. — Williams, is equally competent to fill a place in the parliament or the senate, and will carry with him true dignity wherever he goes.”

He doubtless obtained this lady's approbation in consequence of his thorough hatred and disapprobation of the Jacobins. These were considered by him as so many ferocious monsters, the declared and irreconcilable enemies of all systems calculated to restrain their passions. Like her too, he wished by some signal exertion to put down and to punish Robespierre, of whose future crimes, the minds of both seem

to have been already deeply imbued by anticipation. Nor ought it to be forgotten, that from the very first, he counselled the preservation of the king, and augured the most sinister events from his decapitation.

On Mr. Williams's return, he wished to complete the continuation of Hume, a work which he had undertaken at the special request of a spirited individual, who had already provided a series of most superb and expensive copper-plates.

But, as our author had been recently in France, and the part he had taken while there, was cruelly and grossly misrepresented, the favour of the court and ministry could scarcely be expected to such an undertaking. A compromise therefore ensued, and a sum of money was tendered and accepted under the head of indemnification.

Mr. Williams, was now getting old, without becoming rich; his health too had failed, and infirmities of every kind seemed ready to assail him. A paralytic affection having threatened to suspend the use of his limbs, he removed to Brompton for a change of air, and rented a house there, for a considerable period. But his fortune was not calculated to support this charge, and it was fancied by some, that falling like Benvoglio, into misery in his old age, he would be refused admittance, perhaps, into that very hospital, which he himself had erected. But this was not the case, for on the contrary, in consequence of the kind recommendation of Lord Pelham, now Earl of Chichester, and a large body of the subscribers, he was invited to take up his abode in the house of the Literary Fund, Gerard Street, Soho. There, in the character of a *residential* director of the institution, he was to be daily seen, and applied to. He sat chiefly in the drawing-room, with a marble bust of Mr. Newton, an eminent benefactor to the society, on one side of him, and another of himself in the opposite corner. These had been executed by an able artist, in consequence of a vote of the society, and were consecrated to gratitude!

In this honourable asylum, Mr. Williams was carefully attended by his niece, to whom he very properly bequeathed

the bulk of his fortune, which did not exceed a few hundred pounds. After a gradual decay of some years, he at last calmly resigned his breath, on the 29th of June, 1816, and was interred on the succeeding Saturday, in St. Anne's church, Soho, where the following simple inscription marks the place of his sepulchre :

DAVID WILLIAMS, Esq.

AGED 78 YEARS :

FOUNDER OF THE LITERARY FUND.

In his person, Mr. Williams was tall, and well proportioned ; he had been once accounted handsome ; and was always particularly attentive to his dress. In his manners, he was courteous and affable, and contrived at length to attach to him a number of respectable gentlemen, whose principles were eminently hostile both to the political and religious creed which he had originally professed.

In respect to the religious tenets, at one time entertained by Mr. Williams, we are not fully prepared to descant, because we are not acquainted with their precise import and tendency. It appears from his own works that the opinions which had gone abroad on this subject, were eminently unfriendly to his views, as a teacher of youth. Without meaning to afford the slightest sanction to any thing contained in the following quotation, it is here given merely with a view of conveying some of his early opinions, both on the subject of education and religion, and that too precisely in his own words :

“ In a state of general effervescence, when the spirit of curiosity is impelled by strong passions, the aid of religion is thought requisite : and some ideas of religion are unavoidable. On this subject I am not usually left to my own judgment : an opinion prevailing that I must be averse to religious principles, the female interest of families is exerted in precautions against my influence.

“ I can allow for prepossessions, or any thing analogous to principle ; but I abhor profligacy. If the women are super-

stitious, the men are unprincipled: while the mother is anxious the child be not contaminated with philosophy, the father wishes religion to be formed into a convenient dress, to be put on or off at the pleasure of the wearer. It is my misfortune in common with thousands to disbelieve pretensions to divine communications, which have popular sanctions. I call it a *misfortune* because in the present condition of society, it is attended with inconveniences; and whatever may be alleged of the motives to free thinking, they do not generally furnish compensations for its disadvantages, or injuries. Hence the contradictory *phenomena* of the moral world; whence knowledge is gradually dissipating prejudice; without affecting the forms of religion or diminishing the number of its votaries.

“ The experiment I made on the subject, at some expence to the peace of my mind, and the convenience of my fortune, has furnished information which cannot be obtained by every enquirer; and the results, if establishments were demolished, every thing wearing at this time the form of religion would be extinguished. You will perceive I do not allege the fact as an argument for establishments: they form the great asylum of unprincipled hypocrisy. The general murmur of goodwill attending the first intimation of my design, expressed the wishes of thousands; but they ventured not beyond a wish: and many of those who flew to the standard of liberty before they had estimated the inconvenience, have atoned for the imprudence by an humiliating species of recantation; or sunk into the ranks of superstition, with precautionary accumulations of insincerity. Religion shelters infidels in disguise: it is the fortune of incautious sincerity, or improvident rashness to be branded with the unequivocal marks of irreligion.

“ No man, believing the admirable provisions of nature to be superseded by those of revelation, will treat it with contempt, or even with habitual negligence; yet contempt of religion is the disposition, not of professed free-thinkers, for they are actuated by a different sentiment; it is the general disposition of the times: no persons ridicule it so frequently, or with so much pleasure, as those who save appearances re-

specting it with the multitude, or who are supported in ease and affluence by its emoluments.

“ The pretensions of divine messengers are not, to me, matters of light discourse. They are in my sincere apprehension, among the most fruitful and pernicious sources of imposture, or oppression ; they check industry by the support of opulent classes, constitutionally allied to illegitimate power ; and they produce greater evils in human societies, than any other causes in my knowledge. If I ever refer to them, it is not with trivial ribaldry, but with serious concern, or indignant abhorrence. I am not, however, the apostle of irreligion. The baneful tree has struck its roots too deeply for my strength. I would not encounter the monsters that guard it, to tear off a branch, or to scatter a few leaves.”

It appears, that the subject of this memoir was very cautious of attempting to make proselytes. Whatever his own doubts might have been, he never tried to infuse them into the minds of his pupils. “ Persons,” adds he, “ having recourse to me, in education, have therefore nothing to apprehend from me. While I scorn the affectation of sentiments I disapprove, I can respect sincerity, even in pernicious prejudices ; and I avoid all discussion of opinions denominated religious. This conduct is so consonant to my inclinations, it is become a habit of so easy a nature, that families who have been many years connected with me in education, suppose me a clergyman in the full exercise or practice of customary duties ; and frequently wish me to perform such occasional offices as might give them opportunities of pecuniary compliments.

“ No proposition,” says he, “ in one of his discourses, can be incontrovertible, if the following be not, — Moral philosophy to be as useful as any other science, should be as free, its principles deduced from experience, not from authority ; liberal and informed minds have generally been convinced of this truth ; and the conviction operated in various methods for the advantage of society. The respect they impressed on their acquaintance, the influence of their conversation or writings, were favourable to the interests of mankind. But moral phi-



losophy remained in a species of obscurity; sometimes deeply clouded by scorn or contempt. It seemed to me an enterprise of some merit, to seize an advantageous spot, left unguarded by superstitious despotism: where the cruelties or injuries of exhausted phrenzy had produced a suspension of hostilities, called *toleration*. The ground was untrodden, it had its inconveniences, perhaps its dangers. The little interest or address in my power, could not induce one man to accompany me; and I first occupied the post alone.

“Whether a measure, which may have some effect in continuing the alliance of morality and religion, can be justified, may be matter of future consideration. My present concern is, to dispel the obscurities of ignorance or misapprehension, The injuries of malignity, I will, if possible, contemptuously avoid, if not, I will endeavour to repel them. I speak before persons who have attended every step in the undertaking; whose judgment I esteem more than any thing assuming the form or consequence of public opinion.

“In opening the chapel in Margaret-street, it was my object to claim for moral philosophy, the toleration allowed the extravagancies of gloomy enthusiasm, or the dogmas of ferocious sedition. Others had dared to think or write with freedom; but none had placed morality at the side of superstition, by publicly teaching its doctrines. This object may not be out of my view, whatever be the fluctuations of the society formed by the notice of my intention. I speak to the knowledge of many, that I have neglected obvious interests, and broke valuable friendships to avoid the empiricism of a sectary; to adhere scrupulously to a design, which I may yet see acknowledged in its utmost importance.”

He concludes, by observing “that the impertinence of vulgar atheism is similar to that of a worm contemning the system of Newton.”

It has already been seen in the course of this narrative, that Mr. Williams was a great and zealous friend to *truth*; and he constantly inculcated its maxims, into the two sexes, as indispensably necessary for both. He approved of civility and

politeness, and considered merit and excellence entitled to an affectionate reception. But, on the other hand, the affection of these qualities was most cordially detested by him, more especially when subservient to mean or selfish views.

He was accustomed to consider *complaisance* as something that occupies the interval between haughty obstinacy and mean servility. A mind harmonised by the union of knowledge and virtue, is prepared to tolerate infirmities or faults in others, which it is not inclined to adopt; and with which it could not assimilate. He thought, therefore, that true *complaisance* might yield to the tempers or inclinations of others beyond the limits invariably prescribed to its own. *Politeness*, he considered as a gradation of beauty and elegance in manners, seldom to be expected in young people. He also deemed this quality not unfrequently in opposition to the virtues; and often productive of great baseness, when employed to deceive women; to sooth the vices and infirmities of princes; to cajole private men out of their probity or property; and to give the appearance of benevolent condescension to selfish views.

He detested deceit above all things, and was accustomed to observe, that as the camelion assumes every colour but white, so flatterers exhibit all principles but that of honesty. When females have become accustomed to this false gratification and delight, he contemplated them as exactly in the condition of those unfortunate wretches who have acquired a taste for strong spirits, and cannot live without them.

Mr. Williams considered the plays performed occasionally at some of our public schools, as highly objectionable in point of decency and morals; and he expressed his opinions freely and frequently on this subject.

Towards the close of his life, he appears to have changed, or rather to have outlived most of his friends. At an earlier period, as has been already noticed, he was a great stickler for reform, both in respect to government and religion: but he now seems to have gradually relaxed, and as the society which he had founded was liberally supported by many gentlemen who held offices under government; so we often beheld him in

his latter days, connected both with eminent divines of the established church and respectable placemen, who were alike eager to promote his humane views.

For some years before his demise, a gradual decline of mind as well as of body seems to have taken place. He was feeble, and not only wrote but uttered his sentiments with some difficulty. Although supposed to have been, at one period, gifted with a considerable portion of eloquence, yet he was not fond of public speaking, and for a long time previously to his dissolution, he constantly and studiously neglected the opportunities afforded by the usual complimentary toast, at the annual dinner: "to the founder of the Literary Fund." On those occasions, he remained silent, and declined to make any public return of his acknowledgements.

We shall conclude this memoir, with the following passage, written by a *quondam* friend and biographer.

"The distinguishing traits of Mr. Williams' character, were a boundless philanthropy and disinterestedness; studious of every acquisition that forms the taste, but applying the strength of his genius to the arts of government and education, as objects of the highest importance to the welfare of nations, and the happiness of individuals. In his dress, elegantly plain; in domestic life, attentive to the niceties of decorum; in public, politely ceremonious; in all his manners dignified and distinguished; in conversation, animated; in his person, tall and agreeable, having a commanding look softened with affability."

*List of the Works of the late David Williams, Esq.*

1. Several single Sermons, published at different times.
2. Letter to David Garrick, Esq. on his conduct as a manager and performer, 8vo. 1770.
3. Essays on Public Worship, Patriotism, and Projects of Reformation, 12mo. 1773.
4. An Appendix to the above, 12mo. 1774.
5. Sermons on Religious Hypocrisy, 2 vols. 8vo. 1774.
6. Treatise on Education, 12mo. 1774.

7. Plan of an Academy for the Instruction of Youth, 1774.
8. The Philosopher; consisting of three Polemical Conversations, 8vo. 1775.
9. A Liturgy; containing the universal Principles of Religion and Morality, 8vo. 1776.
10. A Letter to the Protestant Dissenters, on the Political Conduct of their Body.
11. A Letter to Sir George Saville, Bart, M. P. on the Nature and Extent of Intellectual Liberty, 8vo. 1779.
12. Apology for professing the Religion of Nature, 8vo.
13. Lectures on the Universal Principles of Religion and Morality, 2 vols. 4to. 1779.
14. Letters on Political Liberty, 8vo. 1782.
15. Letters on Education, 3 vols. 8vo. 1789.
16. A Plan of an Association on Constitutional Principles, small 8vo.
17. Lessons to a Young Prince, 8vo. (This was never publicly avowed.)
18. History of Monmouthshire, 1 vol. 4to. with plates from drawings, by his friend the Rev. Mr. Gardener, Vicar of Battersea.
19. The first part of Claims of Literature, containing the origin, motives, objects, and transactions of the Literary Fund, 8vo. 1803. (A new edition of this work, with a short life, accompanied by a portrait of the author, was published by Messrs. Nichols and Bentley, in 1816.)

## No. III.

THE REV. JOHN DISNEY, D. D. F. S. A.

THE present, as well as the former volume, contains the lives of many eminent divines of the church of England, who have not only reflected honour on our national establishment, but also on human nature. \*

The article now subjected to the perusal of the reader, is intended to convey a biographical sketch of a distinguished clergyman, who deemed it proper, in the prime of life, and with the full possession of his faculties, to withdraw from that revered institution, of which he was an ornament, forsaking all prospects of ecclesiastical preferment, to profess himself not only a believer in, but the pastor of a different, and in some respects, perhaps, an hostile faith.—*Ed.*

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The late John Disney, D. D. is descended from a very ancient and respectable family in Lincolnshire. His father John Disney, of Lincoln, Esq., possessed an estate at Swinderby, in that county, and had several children, all of whom, with the exception of one †, appear to have paid the great debt of nature.

The subject of this narrative was born in the city just mentioned, on September 17, 1746. Being son of a gentleman in affluent circumstances, he of course received a liberal

\* See vol. i. Life of Dr. William Cleaver, Lord Bishop of St. Asaph, p. 16.; Dr. W. Jackson, Lord Bishop of Oxford, p. 92.; the very Rev. Dr. Vincent, Dean of Westminster, p. 125., and Dr. Watson, Lord Bishop of Llandaff, p. 429.

† Mr. Disney, an elder brother, in consequence of a marriage with an heiress of that name, assumed the *addendum* of Fitch, and by this lady, obtained the estate of Danbury Park in the county of Essex. One of his daughters married Sir W. Hilary, Bart. the other became the wife of her first cousin, Mr. Disney, a barrister of The Inner Temple.

education. After obtaining a knowledge of the first principles of human learning at home, he was sent to Cambridge; for his father was a whig; and that University was then deemed favourable, both to the inculcation and developement of those principles which had produced the Revolution of 1688; and by placing William III. on the throne, paved the way for the introduction of the illustrious House of Brunswick to the government of these realms.

Having been entered a member of Peter-House, he soon distinguished himself by the amenity of his manners, the correctness of his conduct, and a taste and turn for sober enquiry and investigation. Being educated a member of the Church of England, he resolved in due time to appertain to its ecclesiastical establishment. Accordingly he entered first into deacon's, and then into priest's orders, and became vicar of Swinderby, a small living in his native county, if we mistake not, in the gift of his own family. Although entitled only to vicarial dues, this, which was his first preferment, from a variety of circumstances, became a very desirable acquisition. He afterwards obtained the rectory of Panton, in the same county with the former.

It was his good fortune, while at Cambridge, to be honoured with the acquaintance of Dr. Edmund Law, afterwards Bishop of Carlisle, who had been first a Fellow of Christ College; then Master of St. Peter's, and afterwards a Prebendary of Durham. This eminent, pious, and liberal dignitary of the Church of England, in 1769, obtained the bishopric of Carlisle, soon after which he nominated Mr. Disney one of his chaplains.

Meanwhile our young divine had passed through the intermediate degree, LL. B., and at length attained the distinction of D. D. High prospects in the church were now opened to him, and he had every thing to expect from the friendship of the worthy prelate under whose jurisdiction he had some time lived, and beneath whose roof he occasionally resided. But Dr. Disney, had entertained certain doubts as to articles of faith and modes of discipline, enjoined and laid down, by authority, and subscribed to by all

who acknowledged the jurisdiction of the English hierarchy. If the writer of this article be not greatly misinformed, he was not singular in respect to his scruples. The *articles*, about this period, had become a subject of attention, and many distinguished members of the Anglican Church had objected to their nature and tendency. An association was actually formed, and a respectable body, both of Churchmen, and Dissenters, held a meeting in London \*, for the express purpose of petitioning parliament on this very subject.

No relief having been obtained, but on the contrary, all hope of alteration being cut off, Dr. Disney determined to act in strict conformity to his principles and professions.

Accordingly, after due deliberation, he determined to withdraw entirely from the communion of the Church of England; and therefore, in a plain, open, and manly manner, resigned all his preferments.

He was, perhaps, induced, in some small degree, upon the present occasion, by the principles and practice of the venerable and Reverend Francis Blackburne, archdeacon of Cleveland, with whom he afterwards became so intimately connected, by an alliance with his family. This distinguished clergyman was the author of the “ Confessional, or a full and free enquiry into the right, utility, edification, and success of establishing systematical Confessions of Faith and Doctrine, in Protestant Churches.” That work was then much read, and had, at length, acquired no small degree of celebrity; so favourable, indeed, was he to the Dissenters, that a respectable body of them, resident in the metropolis, was desirous to enrol such a distinguished name in the list of their pastors, on the demise of Dr. Chandler.

Whatever his precise motives may have been, the conduct of Dr. Disney must be allowed to have been honourable and disinterested. He doubted — objected — was confirmed in his dissent — resigned his emoluments — and finally withdrew. At such a man as this, it was impossible for the finger of scorn to point; for the tongue of calumny to criminate; or for the serpent-tooth of bigotry to assail.

\* At the Feathers Tavern, Leicester Square.

He was soon after an attendant at the Unitarian chapel, in Essex-Street, London; and when Dr. Lindsay, worn out by age and infirmities, ceased to preach there, he became the successor of a man with whom he had acted for some years as a coadjutor. As he supposed London was unfavourable both to his own health and that of his children, he declined residing within the immediate operation of its dense population, and smoky atmosphere; but as a residence in its vicinity was convenient, he hired a house, and lived for some years in Sloane-Street, Chelsea.

Meanwhile, the Doctor occasionally occupied his leisure hours with literary pursuits, to which he seems to have been addicted from his youth. So early as 1771, he had published several of his sermons; and as he considered "ale-houses," as the great seed-beds of vice, he some time after published "thoughts on licensing them." In 1783, he printed and detailed his reasons for quitting the Church of England; and in the course of the next year he published a "Dialogue between a common Unitarian Christian and an Athanasian;" in which his own peculiar tenets, as well as those of the sect whose doctrines he had embraced and advocated, are fully exhibited and defended.

With the late Dr. John Jebb, the celebrated physician, who was educated, like himself, at Cambridge, where he obtained a fellowship, Dr. Disney kept up a long intercourse, which was accompanied for a series of years with the most sincere friendship and esteem. In many points of view, their characters exactly assimilated; they were both educated in the principles of the Church of England; they both resigned their church preferments on changing their principles, and they were both connected by a bond of union, that has bound together the greatest and best men of antiquity, the *idem sentire de republica*. This truly worthy man died in 1786, leaving behind him a most accomplished widow, who, at an earlier period, had wielded her pen in behalf of her principles, and proved victorious in a contest with a celebrated dignitary, who like a great man of antiquity, had the mortification "to fall by the hand of a



woman." On the death of Dr. Jebb, in 1787, Dr. Disney determined to erect, what Sir William Jones considered as the noblest monument to the memory of a literary man; and accordingly, in the course of the ensuing year, he published a memoir, in which he estimates the character, praises the patriotism, develops the religious opinions, and conveys a just and appropriate idea of the life of that truly pious, worthy, and patriotic physician.

On the approach of the French Revolution, no one more truly rejoiced at those halcyon days then seemingly reserved for mankind, towards the close of the eighteenth century. He accordingly defended and justified the conduct of the National Assembly on the principles of the British constitution; and rejoiced that they should take our Revolution of 1688 as their great exemplar. But when a ferocious race of men arose, and dipped their hands in blood, no one felt more abhorrent at their rapacity, cruelty, and injustice, than the subject of this narrative. From that moment he began to augur the most disastrous results, both in respect to the best interests of human nature, and those of his native country. Mild, peaceable, and orderly, he loved liberty and equal laws; but he detested tumult; he hated disorder; he dreaded anarchy; he abominated persecution.

The great sacrifices in point of ecclesiastical preferments, as well as the resignation of all his hopes, and all his ambition, at the shrine of principle, have already been mentioned. And here, it affords no common pleasure to observe, that they were not unproductive of future advantages, although then wholly unseen, and entirely unexpected.

Dr. Disney had for many years been acquainted with Mr. Dodson, of Boswell-court, Chancery-lane. This gentleman, who led a retired life, was nephew to that great lawyer, Sir Michael Foster; and on his demise, he left a pretty large portion of his property, which was considerable, between Mr. Serjeant Praed, and the subject of this memoir, who were appointed his executors. The latter afterwards wrote "*Memoirs of his life.*"

Nor was Dr. Disney less fortunate in respect to another character well known in the political world. — Mr. Thomas Brande, who had assumed the *addendum* of Hollis, in consequence of the will of Mr. Timothy Hollis, a person of singular character, great worth, and exemplary patriotism. With this gentleman he had travelled through Italy; and their opinions and principles being of a similar tendency, the former unexpectedly found himself his heir, at his decease.

Mr. Thomas Brande Hollis, never having been married, determined, like his benefactor, to select an heir for himself; and accordingly pitched upon and educated a promising young man expressly for this purpose.

But the subject of his intended beneficence happening to die, at an early period of life, he determined to choose another, and accordingly, after a long and intimate acquaintance, fixed on Dr. Disney. Their principles, both political and religious, were nearly if not exactly the same; the maiden sister of the testator for whom he had amply provided, was old and infirm; and he had no immediate relatives whatever. The Hon. Thomas Brand, son of Gertrude Baroness Dacre, and Knight of the Shire for the county of Hertford, to whom this lady bequeathed her fortune, was only a third or fourth cousin.

On the demise of Mr. B. Hollis\*, Dr. Disney published a

\* *Memoirs of Thomas Brand Hollis, Esq. F.R.S. and S.A.*

Of the ancestors of this gentleman, we have the following brief but authentic account.

1. John Brand, citizen and mercer of London, died May 6th 1708, leaving three sons by his wife, whose maiden name was Ashby.

2. Thomas Brand, Esq. of the Inner Temple, married Margaret Nichol, only daughter, and heir of John Nichol, of Chipping-Barnet, in the county of Herts, Esq. and was great grandfather of the Hon. Thomas Brand, of the Hoo, one of the present representatives of that county.

3. Timothy Brand, of the Hyde, near Ingatestone, Essex, having continued for some time, the mercantile concerns of his father John, who appears to have been a silk-mercator, purchased the above estate in 1718, and partly re-built the mansion. Retiring from trade, he afterwards became a Deputy-Lieutenant and acting Magistrate for the county, and served the office of Sheriff. By his marriage with Sarah, daughter of Thomas Rickling, Esq. he left two daughters, Sarah, who married Richard Grindal, Esq. of Austin Friars, and Elizabeth, a maiden lady, who died lately.

quarto volume, containing his life, very appropriately adorned with a number of excellent engravings. This was intended as

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Thomas, his only son, of whom we are now about to treat, was born in 1719, and was educated, first at Brentwood, and afterwards at Felsted, in his native county; thence he was removed to the college of Glasgow, and matriculated in the third class, in 1738. He attended the lectures of Professor Hutchinson, and always entertained a high respect for that gentleman: his bust, indeed, was constantly placed in one of his apartments, in London.

In 1735, he was admitted a student of the Inner Temple, and in 1741, soon after his return from the north, appears to have taken chambers within the precincts of that Inn of Court.

In the summer of 1748, he set out on his travels with his friend Mr. Thomas Hollis, and they returned together, during the winter of 1749. Next year, he proceeded by himself on his second tour through France, Italy, and Germany, and continued abroad until the summer of 1753. During this period, he became acquainted with the Lords North and Dartmouth, who were then also travelling on the continent; and he kept up a correspondence with the latter, after their separation.

Soon after his second arrival in England he was elected a member both of the Royal Society and the Society of Antiquaries; he also became a Governor of St. Thomas's Hospital, &c. While actively employed in town, during the winter, in a regular attendance on these and similar institutions, he constantly spent the summer at his country seat, called the Hyde, in the embellishment of which, he appears to have taken great delight. In 1761, he completed his hall, under the superintendence of that celebrated architect, Sir William Chambers; and in 1772, obtained an alteration of some of the adjoining roads, so as to render the approach to his abode both more easy and more comfortable. There he, at length, finally settled, being determined to "enjoy the peace of nature," in his own grounds. And there too, he was frequently visited by the assertors of public liberty, particularly Dr. John Jebb, who appears to have delighted in this charming retreat. Alluding to what was felt by him during the spring, at the Hyde, a little before his demise he observed: "The sight of nature in her first exertions, is itself enough to make a man better. I think I feel its force." He died soon after, March 2, 1786.

In 1774, Mr. Hollis most unexpectedly obtained an addition of several thousands a year, to his patrimonial fortune, by the demise of a friend, who has been characterised as "an Englishman, a lover of liberty, his country, and its original constitution, as most nobly confirmed at the glorious revolution." In the course of the very next year, however, in consequence of certain rumours spread to his disadvantage on this very account we find him observing, in a letter dated August 8, 1775, "The bounty and munificence of my friend, have not contributed to my peace of mind, in consequence of the malice and envy of particular persons. They began very early, and have continued to prevent that enjoyment, which I might have expected: for after the severest examination of myself, I am not sensible that I have altered my principles, my manner of life, or conduct in general, or to any person in particular, but endeavoured to follow the example of my friend."

Soon after this event, in addition to his own, he assumed the name and arms of "Hollis," consisting of the *pileus*, or cap of liberty, on a circular antique shield, *gules*, studded within a border of twelve circles, *or*. The crest was formed of a wreath of the

a companion to the life of Mr. Thomas Hollis, and it must be allowed to exhibit a fine specimen of the recent advance-

colours, *gules* and *or*; a dagger in pale, pointed downward, *argent*. The hilt an owl in profile, *or*, standing on the guard, *or*.

“ At sibi dat clypeum, dat acutæ cuspidis hastam;

“ Dat galeam capiti; defenditur ægide pectus.”

Ovid. Met. vi. 78, 79.

In 1780, he at length accomplished his wish of doing honour to the memory of his deceased friend, by the publication of his life, in a magnificent quarto volume, accompanied by an appendix of the same size. Both of these were adorned with superb engravings, and the whole consists of a series of the best book prints that has ever appeared in England. The expence of this work must have been prodigious; it was never published, but given away liberally, both to distinguished individuals and societies: in short, it was sent every where, and to every one, whence the least good to the cause of public liberty was likely to be derived. To Mr. Archdeacon Blackburne, who compiled the work, and who had before received the sum of five hundred pounds, in consequence of a bequest in the late Mr. Thomas Hollis's will, a noble compensation was presented. It is greatly to be lamented, that this publication should have contained some strong reflections against the Roman Catholics; but the genius of the age, and the temper of the public mind, has since experienced great alteration in respect to this essential point.

It is well known, that Mr. Thomas Hollis was desirous of being a member of the House of Commons; and it now remains to observe, that it would have been fortunate for Mr. Brand Hollis, had he never attempted to become a legislator. On the dissolution of Parliament, in September 1774, a seat for the borough of Hindon, was offered him; and as he was to be exempt from all personal interposition at the election, a zealous, but imprudent friend, having undertaken to act as his agent, neither trouble nor disgrace appeared to be attached to this transaction. He was accordingly returned with the celebrated General Smith for his colleague; but the election was declared *void*, and a committee of the House soon after declared, “ that the sitting members, and petitioners, had alike been guilty of notorious bribery.” A prosecution immediately ensued, and the defendants were sentenced to pay a fine of 1000 marks, and suffer six months imprisonment.

The military candidate, on this occasion, hired very expensive apartments, and lived in great splendour within the rules of the King's Bench, but the subject of this memoir consigned himself, during that unhappy half year, to obscurity; and never thought on this affair, during the remainder of his life, without horror.

During the American war, Mr. Brand Hollis was a strenuous friend to and advocate for the cause of the colonies. On this occasion, he appears to have been at considerable pains and expence in circulating what are called “ Liberty Tracts;” he also encouraged several writers to publish on that side of the question.

It was about this period, we believe, that he first became acquainted with Thomas Paine, whose first work produced such great effect on the inhabitants of the Trans-Atlantic continent. His portrait, ever after, occupied a conspicuous part in the house in Chesterfield-street, May Fair.

On the conclusion of peace, Mr. Adams was appointed Minister Plenipotentiary from the United States of America, to the court of London; and both this gentleman and his lady spent some time at the Hyde, both in 1786 and 1787. On their return to

ment of the arts in England. And let it not be forgotten here, that the two Hollises, together with the subject of this memoir,

America, they became his correspondents; and it would appear, from some of the Vice-President's letters, that he was then, at least, no enemy to regal government, limited by the laws. We have always understood, that the late Colonel Hamilton, one of General Washington's *Aides-de-Camp*, was a bold and open assertor of this doctrine. But soon after the demise of the President, the Federalists lost their superiority; and the republicans ever since, appear to have constituted a decided majority, at least, in all the elections.

The Americans had already nominated a *Hollisian Professor*, out of compliment to so many of that name, who had been benefactors to Harvard College; and in 1787, the University of Cambridge, in Massachusetts, conferred on the subject of this memoir the degree of LL. D. in the most flattering terms: "*Vir ille præclarus Thomas Brand Hollis Armiger, nostræ reipublicæ literariæ Harvardianæ fauter beneficus, et liberalis, &c.*" In addition to repeated presents, he bequeathed to this college the sum of one hundred pounds; and presented many books also to the Society of Arts, of which he had been elected a member many years before his demise.

As Mr. Hollis never was a member of the House of Commons, the circle trod by him was of course limited. In 1780, he associated in forming the "*Society for Constitutional Information*," the chief object of which was a reform in Parliament. Accordingly, in conjunction with a number of independent gentlemen who had opposed the American war, and sincerely rejoiced at its termination, he continued a constant attendant at the meetings, and a zealous promoter of the ends of its institution, in company with the late Sir William Jones, afterwards one of his Majesty's Judges, in Bengal; John Horne Tooke, author of the "*Diversions of Purley*," and late M.P. for Old Sarum; Sir Samuel Romilly, afterwards Solicitor-General; Major Cartwright; Mr. Day, &c. &c. He also concurred, in 1780, with the Rev. Christopher Wyvill, Chairman of the Yorkshire Committee, in a petition to Parliament "to enquire into and correct the gross abuses in the expenditure of public money; to reduce all exorbitant emoluments; to rescind, and abolish all sinecure places, and unmerited pensions:—and to appropriate the produce to the necessities of the State, in such a manner as to the wisdom of parliament should seem meet."

Mr. Brand Hollis, who, as one of the "*Deputies for Westminster*," appears to have assembled with Mr. Pitt, and others, at the St. Alban's tavern, was Chairman of that Committee, the report of which was drawn up by Dr. John Jebb, containing a statement of supposed grievances. He was also present in the character of a "*Deputy from Essex*," at several other assemblies for the same purpose, in 1781, when the late Mr. Pitt also attended, and exhibited uncommon warmth, eloquence, and zeal, in behalf of a reform of what he was pleased to term, "*the Commons House of Parliament*." When that gentleman afterwards became minister, he, at three several epochs, moved the great question of reform in the representation; and on all those occasions he was supported by the subject of this memoir and his friends.

In 1786, Mr. B. Hollis, although differing in his religious opinions, became a liberal subscriber to the Protestant Dissenting Academy, at Hackney, an institution, which after a brilliant commencement, and although supported by liberal funds, ceased to exist in 1796. In 1788, he was one of the stewards of the meeting for celebrating the centenary of the revolution of 1688; in 1789, he beheld, with inexpressible delight,

possessed not only a fine taste for, but were liberal encouragers of the various productions both of the chisel and the graver.

Dr. Disney expresses himself thus, in his preface to the memoirs, dated from "the Hyde, September 28, 1808."

"No apology is intended to be offered for the following sheets; they will sufficiently speak for themselves. The generous minded reader will approve the design; and the biographer trusts that the courteous reader will candidly accept the execution. He is not conscious of having mistated or misrepresented a single fact; or having concealed or emblazoned a single trait of character. He scorns to offer any unworthy sacrifice at the altar of truth. He may also be

the dawn of liberty in France; and saw with no small satisfaction, that it was as yet unaccompanied with bloodshed.

In 1792, he co-operated with Mr. now Earl Gray, and the "Friends of the People," in an attempt to procure a parliamentary reform, and on February 24, 1795, was attacked, in a bookseller's shop, in Piccadilly, with a fit of apoplexy; but he recovered from this seizure, and his health happily returned.

In respect to religion, he was bred a Dissenter; but he afterwards became an Unitarian.

In his character Mr. Brand Hollis was mild, in his temper amiable, in his manners obliging. "Preserve your serenity!" was a favourite maxim with him, and this he constantly recommended to all his friends. His cabinet of antiquities was both rare and valuable; and his taste in *vertù* was deemed chaste and correct. Like his predecessor, he collected all books, medals, pictures, and gems, connected with the cause of liberty; or calculated to inspire a love of it in other individuals, and among other nations as well as his own. He was indolent, however, and averse from business; so that with a large unincumbered fortune, he was sometimes in want of money.

When the house of Dr. Priestly was destroyed by a mob, in 1791, he made him a liberal present; to Dr. Geddes, in 1801, he transmitted 100l.; and he was one of the first to subscribe to relieve Mr. Gilbert Wakefield, from the difficulties likely to accrue from his imprisonment in Dorchester Jail.

In 1801, he left London, for the last time, and expired on Sunday September 9, 1804, at the Hyde, without a sigh or a struggle, as he was sitting in his drawing-room.

He was buried in the chancel of the established church, where a small sarcophagus, with the following inscription, has been erected to his memory.

"THOMAS BRAND HOLLIS, ESQ.

OF THE HYDE,

F. R. S. AND S. A.

DIED SEPT. IX. MDCCCIV. AGED LXXXIV.

IN TESTIMONY OF FRIENDSHIP AND GRATITUDE

THIS MONUMENT IS ERECTED

BY JOHN DISNEY, D.D. F. S. A."

excused for repeating here what he has taken occasion to observe elsewhere; — that under certain circumstances, “the tribute of friendship and gratitude became a debt of honour and of justice; and he who agreeably to the customs of the ancients, ‘*Does not sacrifice to Heroes till after Sun-set,*’ equally repels all suspicion of interest, and every petulant charge of designed exaggeration.\*

“These memoirs are not intended to be committed to the ordinary forms of publication. The circle of private friends will accept with tenderness what is presented to them with unmixed good will; a few of our public libraries will continue to preserve in the company of its betters, this minor production in biography.

“Some of the engraved plates which accompany the present volume, are given in deference to the taste of the writer’s friend, and in confirmation of it; while the introduction of others will gratify his own feelings. They will jointly give to this little work an increased interest in the estimation of those personal friends from whose attachment and constancy he has derived some of the greatest comforts of his life.

“The portrait of Mr. Brand Hollis was engraved from a drawing in crayons in the early part of his life. It was taken at the desire of his friend, Mr. Thomas Hollis, was carefully preserved by him; and considered as a correct likeness. It might be added, that since his decease, an artist of distinguished ability was invited to make an effort with his chisel from memory: but the opportunity was irrecoverably lost.

“The two sections of the hall and staircase at the Hyde, were engraved for Mr. Brand Hollis, a few years before his death, from the drawings of Sir William Chambers, who executed the design in 1761, as stated in the body of the work.

“Of the figure of ‘Liberty,’ or ‘Britannia,’ (may the names ever be synonymous!) a correct account cannot be given. The design is masterly, and the graver of Bartolozzi

\* See a “Memoir of Michael Dodson, Esq.” 1800; and the dedication of the incomparable Jortin to Archbishop Herring 1752, prefixed to the second volume of his “Ecclesiastical Remarks.”

has been employed in a freedom of manner singularly characteristic of his subjects and himself.

“The two *Sarcophagi* are engraved by Mr. Bazire, from drawings which he made in the course of the last winter. They possess expression which does credit to his abilities and exertion, and an accuracy which distinguishes his fidelity in delineation. The antique knocker, preserved in the title page, was also drawn, and engraved by the same faithful artist.

“The large Roman Sarcophagus, is seven feet one inch in length, and eleven inches in height, as may be seen from the scale annexed. In front are figures in *alto relievo*, (according to the Memoirs of Thomas Hollis, p. 129.) of Roman workmanship, representing the whole race of fauns, faunesses, and satyrs of different ages, very perfect and antique. But the three groupes of figures would appear to be more accurately described, by saying that the centre compartment represents Bacchus sacrificing, supported on the right side by a satyr, and on the left, by a faun. At his feet, are the panther and tiger. On the ground, is the sacred basket from which is issuing the serpent. At one end of the front, are Silenus, with an infant Bacchus in his arms, and a dog and a goat at his feet; at another end, a female bacchanal playing with cymbals. This sarcophagus was brought from Rome together with its companion, by William Lloyd, Esq. of Gregories, near Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, and both were purchased of him in June 1761, by Thomas Hollis, Esq., in order (as he writes, July 8, same year) to be presented to his ‘good old friend, Mr. Brand.’ And the Sarcophagi Mr. Brand, (afterwards Mr. Brand Hollis) greatly esteemed, and always considered ‘as making the principal ornaments of his hall.’

“Concerning these, and some other marbles, Mr. Hollis wrote to his friend (July 17, same year,) ‘Remember however, that I am to deliver these marbles to you like a gentleman and a friend, that is, free of all charges whatever; nor are you to depart from your disposition, from the scrubbinnesses of the country, and tamper with my understrappers,’ &c.

“The Greek SARCOPHAGUS, the companion of the former,



though less in size (being five feet three inches long, and one foot three inches high, and the cover seven inches high) was also purchased of Mr. Lloyd, and presented to Mr. Brand, as before mentioned. In the front and on each side, are figures in *alto rilievo*, 'representing (according to the Memoirs, p. 129. before cited) the Amazons begging peace of Theseus, king of Athens, by means of Hippolita his queen, as related by Plutarch.' Rich in figures and Greek workmanship; and very entire and perfect. The cover is also in *alto rilievo*. See Plutarch's Life of Theseus. — 'The Athenians charged their right wing, and a great number of the Amazons were slain. At length, after four months, a peace was concluded between them, by the mediation of Hippolita,' Dryden's Translation, 1703. vol. i. p. 41—43; or Langhorne's, 1801. vol. i. p. 29.

"But it has been suggested to me with greater apparent correctness by that informed mythologist, and ingenious artist Mr. Harman, on his recently examining this valuable relique of antiquity, that the subject of this Greek Sarcophagus, is the story of Ulysses' discovery of Achilles, concealed by his mother, Thetis, among the daughters of Lycomedes. Ulysses visited the court of Lycomedes, in the character of a merchant, and exposed various trinkets to the young women for their choice, and mixed with these some warlike weapons. The daughters of Lycomedes chose such things as were appropriate to female occupations. While they were in the act of making this selection, Ulysses caused a trumpet to be sounded, when Achilles, although dressed like a woman, immediately seized a spear and shield. By this stratagem, Achilles was discovered and sent to the Trojan war. Agreeably to this story, the centre figure is Achilles with a shield on his left arm, brandishing a spear in his right hand; the figure kneeling before him is his favourite female; the five figures near her are her sisters, and the old man behind them is Lycomedes; the figure in a cap is Ulysses, rejoicing in his success, and behind him are his two companions. — On the end next to

the figure of Lycomedes, is Hector slain by Achilles, unfinished. On the other, is Achilles killing Penthesilea, queen of the Amazons, &c.

“The view of the Hyde, the paternal residence of Mr. Brand Hollis, and those of the Hermitage and the piece of water there, were painted in the autumn of 1806, by that ingenious artist and very worthy man, Mr. George Cuit of Richmond in Yorkshire: and it was some gratification to have a second opportunity of employing his correct pencil, after an interval of thirty years. The two former are engraved by Mr. Bazire; the water-piece is engraved by another hand.

“The mural monument was the sculpture of Mr. King of Bath, and is very well executed from a design of my own; but makes no claim to any other recommendation than that of simplicity and neatness.

“A catalogue of some marbles, bronzes, pictures, and gems, has been made, and indeed printed for private use. It was not drawn up without attention, and has received considerable improvement from the assistance of two respectable friends, Mrs. Howard of Pinner, in Middlesex, a lady whose erudition is exceeded only by her diffidence, modesty, and benevolence: and the Rev. James Tate, master of the Grammar School of Richmond in Yorkshire, and late Fellow of Sidney College, Cambridge, a gentleman whose learning, diligence, and zeal eminently distinguish him, in conducting his scholars through the highest departments of a classical education.”

It was not until some time after he had resigned his livings in the Church of England, that Dr. Disney became personally acquainted with Mr. Brand Hollis. He had known him, however, long before, through the medium of the learned Archdeacon Blackburne, a common friend of both; and if the memory of the writer of this article be correct, he drew up an index for the two splendid volumes, containing the life of Mr. Thomas Hollis, edited by the above gentleman, illustrated with many fine plates and a variety of miscellaneous dissertations. Their

acquaintance soon ripened into friendship, and that friendship continued to improve during a space of many years, unbroken and uninterrupted by any sinister event.

In 1786, they took a journey together, for the purpose of collecting materials for the life of Dr. Jebb, which was published in the course of the succeeding year. Of this able and amiable man, they both entertained the highest respect; and his bust constantly occupied a distinguished place in the parlour of Mr. Brand Hollis's town house. On his demise they transferred their friendship to his widow. But it may be more satisfactory, perhaps, for the reader to peruse these interesting particulars, as stated by himself in the printed life of the eminent and worthy physician just alluded to.

“It was not till the end of 1782, or early in the year 1783, that the writer of the present page (Dr. Disney), upon his resigning his situation in the established church, and removing to London, became personally acquainted with Mr. Brand Hollis; but that acquaintance proceeded to friendship, and that friendship continued to improve, and was uninterrupted as long as he lived.

“Dr. John Jebb, the common friend of Mr. Brand Hollis, and his biographer, and the friend of the whole human race, in all their best and dearest interests, died March 2, 1786. In the course of the next month, an intention of undertaking the collection and publication of his works, with some account of his life and labours, was announced; and at the end of twelve months, that engagement with the public was completed, in 3 vols. 8vo. Early in the summer of the same year in which our friend died, Mr. Brand Hollis and myself spent some days together at Cambridge, in order the more correctly to renew the knowledge of past scenes on this theatre of Dr. Jebb's academical and theological life, and to consult the opinion and advice of his friends, on various matters respecting the proposed publication.

“In August, 1791, I met my friend (Mr. Brand Hollis) by his own request at Salisbury, in his return from Dorsetshire, and

visited Southampton and Winchester in company with him, on our way home."

"In the disposition of his fortune at his death," says Dr. Disney \*, " Mr. Brand Hollis might seem, as it were, to have adopted the precedent of his friend (the late Thomas Hollis, Esq.); and the date of his will (November 2, 1792,) was nearly twelve years before his decease. He left his only surviving sister † an annuity, charged on his estate in Essex; he also gave small pecuniary legacies to several of his friends; made provision for some of his servants, and gave more limited legacies to the rest of them; and bequeathed, without annexing any condition, all his real and personal estates, as well those in Essex, which he inherited from his father, as those in Dorsetshire, which he received from his friend, 'and all other his real as well as personal estates, whatsoever and wheresoever, to Dr. John Disney, of Sloane-Street, Knightsbridge, near London, his heirs, executors, and administrators, to his and their sole use and benefit.' He also appointed him his executor of such his last will and testament.

"On no one occasion," adds Dr. D. "and in no one instance in the course of our confidential or familiar conversation, either in London, or at the Hyde, during my repeated visits there, did he give the slightest intimation of his partial intention, or drop one unguarded expression leading that way.

"So lately as September, 1802, he presented to me a sleeping cupid, by Algardi, upon his indirectly learning from another person that I much admired it; but this marble was the only memorial which he had given me in his life-time. Since his death, I have sometimes thought that I could call to my remembrance some faint traces of his great watchfulness over himself in this practised reserve; and I can with pleasure bring back to my recollection some marked evidences of his regard; but these, in no degree amounted to tokens of friendship so unbounded, and which he intended to confirm, by so magnificent and splendid a bequest."

\* Memoirs, p. 23.

† Mrs. Brand is since dead. Ed.

On the demise of Mr. Brand Hollis, in the autumn of 1804, his surviving friend placed the corpse of his munificent benefactor next to the bones of his father, in the chancel of his parish church. He also soon after erected a monument to his memory, with an appropriate inscription, expressive of his "friendship and gratitude." The workmanship is exquisite, and the whole partakes of the beauty and simplicity of ancient times.

He also composed his "Memoirs," which were printed in 1808, with the annexed motto, "*Amicitiae Sacrum.*" Owing to inattention on the part of the person to whom he confided the care of this work, the paper is of a very inferior quality; and he intended, on this very account, with his usual liberality, to have published another edition, not to be sold, but to be presented to the friends of the deceased. Prefixed, is a very fine engraved portrait, after the manner of chalk, of Mr. B. Hollis, when in his thirty-second year, drawn from the life, at Rome, in 1752, by Pozzi, and engraved, in 1807, by E. Bocquet. The other engravings, consisting of *sarcophagi*, a view of the Hyde, the grounds, and the summer-house, are all executed with great fidelity, taste, and skill, and there is one plate that does not disgrace the well known talents of Bartalozzi.

But Dr. Disney was doomed, after the lapse of a few fleeting years, to stand in need of that "generous tear," which he had so often dropt over the tombs of other worthy men, with whom he lived in the habits of friendship. His health had been for a long time in a declining state, and his ministry at Essex-Street chapel was first suspended, and then entirely ceased on this account. Indeed, he at length confined himself to the Hyde, in Essex, and with the exception of his signature to a requisition, as a freeholder, to the lord-lieutenant, for a county meeting, we do not recollect that he exercised any public functions whatsoever.

A worthy clergyman, who had enjoyed "an undeviating, uninterrupted friendship of nearly thirty years continuance," who had "seen him, under a variety of circumstances, and

without the mask of disguise, which he never assumed," but "with all that openness of temper, that generous frankness of nature, by which he was remarkably characterized," thus describes his last illness :

"His health had been sensibly declining for a considerable time; but he endured a painful and lingering illness with a fortitude and composure which were truly admirable. — Perfectly aware of his situation, he one day told a friend who was near him, 'he had hoped all would have been over before that time; but he supposed a little more discipline was necessary; and all was ordered right.' At another time, he said to his physician, 'I hope I shall not have to go through all this, long.' — When momentarily expecting his awful change, he was most perfectly tranquil and collected in that expectation, and anxious for his release. He said, not long before his death, he felt completely free from pain, happy and comfortable to the greatest degree. — Again to one who was most dear to him, he observed, — 'Amidst my severe afflictions, I have many comforts, and much to be thankful for, though I do suffer a good deal; but I endeavour to be patient; and I wish to bring my mind to believe, that this bed is the best place for me. Some have a much rougher journey out of this system than I have.' — It was a striking observation of a neighbouring gentleman, for whom he entertained great personal regard, who, upon seeing him in his sick room not many days previous to his dissolution, remarked, that 'His was the only composed or happy countenance in the house.'

"He frequently expressed his desire to be released, and that he thought his time long. When a word or sentiment escaped him, he was the same precisely as ever, unchanged in sickness, suffering, and in death. When rapidly advancing to the most awful and tremendous of all moments, he continued calm and serene, kind to others, and composed and dignified in his own views. — Till, at length, he breathed his last without a struggle or a sigh, — sunk into a state of sweet and gentle repose, and closed his eyes for ever on this world.

‘ The chamber where the good man meets his fate,  
Is privileged beyond the common walk  
Of *virtuous* life, quite in the verge of heaven.’

“ Such were the interesting awful scenes, such the sad train of concomitant circumstances, which I have partly witnessed, or which have been represented to me with great accuracy and distinctness, as well as with deep interest, and the liveliest sensibility. So consistent, so dignified was the conduct of this approved servant of God in circumstances the most trying to human nature, — so enlightened, so vigorous were the principles which sustained and carried him through no common sufferings, — so bright and cheering, the hopes which inspired his breast even within the precincts of the tomb.”

At length, on the evening of Thursday, December 26, 1816, he was released by death from those afflictions produced by a long and lingering illness, which he appears to have borne, not only with a manly fortitude, but an heroic constancy.

Thus died in the 71st year of his age, John Disney, D. D. F. R. S., a man whose memory will be long respected by all denominations of Christians, on account of the immense sacrifice made by him to his religious principles, when his infant family was as yet unprovided with the gifts of fortune, and while he himself only enjoyed the scanty means usually allotted in this country to younger brothers. But, while he differed with, and withdrew from the pale of the Anglican communion, his conduct, in respect to the established church, was respectful and urbane. In 1792, he defended the practice of “public worship,” from the attack of the learned Gilbert Wakefield; and Christianity itself from the “Age of Reason,” written by Thomas Paine.

On the other hand, he was always anxious to advocate the principles of “Unitarian Christians,” particularly in a series of letters to Vicesimus Knox, D. D. against all those who thought proper to impugn them; while he anxiously endeavoured to promote their spread by means of “sermons,” and “dialogues,” and still more by an uniform good and virtuous prac-

tice. Indeed, his own life, conduct, and conversation, formed the most popular and powerful aid on this, and indeed, every other similar occasion.

Some idea of his religious opinions may be gathered from his account of those of his friend Mr. Brand Hollis, as exhibited in the life of that gentleman.\* After stating that he had been educated in the principles of a Protestant, dissent from the established church, chiefly with reference to the power of the civil magistrate, in matters of religion, &c. he adds as follows: "But from his subsequent reading and reflection, he became a firm believer in the Unity and Supremacy of the one God and Father of all: and in the divine mission (of) Christ as the messenger and prophet of God; and he was, agreeably to such his faith, not only a member of the chapel in Essex Street, London, but a liberal benefactor to it.

"He was unequivocally a believer in the resurrection of Christ: 'the evidence of a future state,' says he, in a paper now before me, 'is such as leaves no doubt in my mind.' And I remember his very seriously, and emphatically observing, that 'he utterly hated an immoral action.' 'Where then,' continues he, 'may we expect to find a better source, or greater security for the religion, and virtuous conduct of any man, than in the conviction of the government, wisdom, and goodness of the one only God; — in a belief of the divine mission of Jesus, and of a resurrection to a future state of distributive justice and mercy; and connected with these, in the profession of a rooted aversion to every immoral action. More copious articles of faith may be professed, and believed, by good and excellent men of all religious persuasions; but men are not necessarily good and excellent, because of their lengthened creed. 'Indeed, when any creed is imposed, the very act of imposing implies suspicion on the part of the imposer: and such imposition may invite, and in some hard cases will compel men to become hypocrites. And the world has been long told by the history of the Christian church, how very inadequate such means are to the advancement of

\* *Memoirs*, p. 54.



that truth and charity, which peculiarly belong to Christianity, and constitute the great character of its master."

In respect to his political opinions, he was at once mild, gentle, and firm. But these, like his religious creed, shall be here enumerated, and expressly in his own words, first premising, that he was an enemy to violence of all kinds; that he wished to succeed by argument alone, and that he both hated and constantly refused to associate with those, whatever their professed pretensions might be, who wished to deface and destroy, rather than to repair and rectify. He knew and he boasted that we possessed the noblest and freest constitution in the world; and he never went further than to express a wish coupled with an honest intention of removing some of those practices introduced by time and corruption, which are supposed, instead of adorning, to blemish and disgrace the fabric.

After stating the particulars of a petition to parliament, by the Yorkshire Association in 1780, "To enquire into and correct the gross abuses in the expenditure of public money, to reduce all exorbitant emoluments, unmerited pensions," &c. he continues as follows: "How earnestly and how repeatedly these well-intentioned and well-digested measures have been pleaded, and with what supercilious disdain, or barefaced evasion they have been treated by the venal satellites and sycophants of power, the present\* existing situation of our bleeding country loudly proclaims, and will continue to proclaim, till imperious necessity shall extort from parliament the radical reform of the constitution of the House of Commons, and set limits to the wanton extension of the House of Lords.

"But the impracticability of obtaining the redress of these grievances will continue so long as Parliament continues unreformed in its elections; and so very unequally to represent the constituent body of the people; so long as dilapidated and rotten boroughs shall send the same (number of) members,

\* This manifestly alludes to the state of Great Britain, in 1809.

as the 30,000 freeholders of Yorkshire; so long as great towns like Leeds and Manchester shall not be admitted in such representation, and the city of Westminster allowed only to equal that of Old Sarum. — So long, with respect to all questions of political reform, shall we continue to proceed in a retrograde direction, and only lament our demonstrative folly, when we are finally a ruined people.”

On Sunday morning, the 26th of January 1817, was delivered the funeral sermon of this celebrated divine, who had performed the same sad office at the demise of Dr. Priestley, in 1804. It is entitled “The Memorial of the Just,” and was preached in Mill-Hill Chapel, Leeds, by the Rev. Thomas Jervis.

“His death,” said he, “may be truly considered as a public loss. I should, therefore, deem it a species of injustice to the public, were I not to attempt, however inadequately, to do justice to his memory; not by an ostentatious display of his exalted merits, which need not the imposing aid of panegyric to emblazon them, — but to pay that sacred tribute of the heart, which his memory justly claims from those who were best acquainted with his many admirable qualities. This office has been already pointed out to me by the suggestion of some friends, whose opinion upon this subject, though perhaps too partial, yet is entitled to my attention and respect. Perhaps I may be allowed to observe, that, in the course of an un-deviating, uninterrupted friendship of nearly thirty years continuance — having seen him under a variety of circumstances, and without the mask of disguise — which he never assumed — but with all that openness of temper, that generous frankness of nature, by which he was remarkably characterised — I should consider myself utterly destitute of observation and discernment of character, if I were not in some measure competent to estimate his talents, and to appreciate his virtues.

“Having recently been near him in some of the last interesting scenes of his valued life; and, at his lamented death having joined with many highly respectable persons to pay the last solemn tribute of honour and affection to the departed, in

attending the sacred rites of sepulture, and depositing his venerable remains in the silent tomb — you will not be surprised if I am almost afraid to trust myself upon this affecting subject, while all the kindest sensibilities of the heart are awake, tremblingly alive to the sentiments of unfeigned sorrow and regret. I am well aware that, upon this painful occasion, I shall stand in need of that indulgence which I have often needed, and as often experienced, within these walls; from the candid auditory to which I now address myself. And I am persuaded, that the kindness of your sympathy will be prepared to make every reasonable allowance for the imperfect execution of the task which I have prescribed to myself — to which, notwithstanding, I feel myself unequal.

“ Doctor Disney was a man of no ordinary description. With great natural endowments, he had a mind stored with various knowledge and information; whilst a singular energy and vivacity of sentiment, a suavity and urbanity of manner, and a temper happily communicative, gave a peculiar interest and spirit to his conversation, and animated all around him. Possessing high and varied attainments, he was eminently conversant with the several departments of theology and literature. And it may here be observed with propriety and advantage, that his controversial writings are remarkable for that manly liberality, candour, and moderation, which reflect honour on the cause which he espoused, and at once distinctly mark the character of the scholar, the gentleman, and the christian.

“ His estimable and accomplished character was established upon the just ground of his upright, and exemplary conduct through life. Distinguished by his rank in society, and adorned by the nobler distinction of his virtues, he was highly esteemed and respected in the neighbourhood in which he was resident; in the circle of his numerous and respectable friends; and by all who were competent to judge of the purity of his principles, of the independence, the honour, and integrity of his actions.”

Dr. Disney has left behind him an ample fortune, and a large family. In 1774, he married an amiable woman, the daughter of the celebrated and pious Archdeacon Blackburne, who died in 1809. By this lady he had eight children. Of these, John, bred a barrister, and for some years Recorder of Bridport, married his first cousin; Algernon, who is still a bachelor, has attained the rank of a field officer in the army; and there are five amiable daughters.

A bust of this respectable gentleman, carved by the chisel of J. Cockaine, was exhibited in the model room of the Royal Academy in 1817.

*List of the Works*  
*Of the late Rev. John Disney, D.D. F.S.A.*

1. Animadversions on Dr. Rutherford, an 8vo. tract, 1768.
2. Four Sermons, on Christmas-day, 8vo. 1771. N. B. These were afterwards republished, in his 2 vols. of Sermons.
3. Loose Hints on Nonconformity, 1773.
4. Letter to the Archbishop of Canterbury, 1774.
5. Rational Christian's Assistant, 1774.
6. Remarks on Dr. Balguy's Consecration Sermon, 1775.
7. Short View of Confessional and Clerical Petition Controversies, 1775.
8. Thoughts on Licensing Public Alehouses, 1776.
9. Remarks on Bishop Hurd's Charge, 1777.
10. Considerations on the Clergy acting in the Commission of the Peace, 1781.
11. Reasons for quitting the Church of England, 2d edition, 1783.
12. Memoirs of the Life and Writings of Arthur Ashley Sykes, D.D. with an Appendix, 8vo. 1785.
13. A friendly Dialogue between an Athanasian and a Trinitarian, 2d edition, 1787.
14. A Preface to "Discourses on various subjects, together with Considerations on Pluralities, by Sam. Disney, LL.B. late Vicar of Wanstead, Essex," 8vo. 1788.

15. Address to the Bishops, 1790.
16. Observations on the Homilies, 1790.
17. Arranged Catalogue of publications on Toleration, Corporation, and Test Acts, 8vo. 1790.
18. Letter to the Students of Divinity, in the Diocese of Chester, 8vo. 1790.
19. Memoirs of the Life and Writings of Dr. Jortin, 8vo. 1792.
20. The Book of Common Prayer Reformed, for the use of Unitarian Congregations, 1792.
21. Letters to the Rev. Vicesimus Knox, D. D. 1792.
22. Short Memoir of Bishop Edmund Law, 1800.
23. Short Memoir of the Life of Michael Dodson, Esq. 1800.
24. Book of Common Prayer Reformed, with a Book of Psalms, and a collection of Hymns, 1802.
25. Memoirs of Thomas Brand Hollis, Esq. 4to. 1808.
26. Sermons, 4 vols. 8vo. 1793 and 1816.
27. Six Letters occasioned by the institution of an Auxiliary British and Foreign Bible-Society, 8vo. 1812.
28. Remarks on Dr. Tomlin's (Bishop of Lincoln's) Charge, 1812.
29. The Great Importance of a Religious Life Considered, 1812. N. B. This was formerly published under the title of "A Religious Life Considered; to which are added some Morning and Evening Prayers." The Editor in the 2d edition observes, "that he has made certain omissions; and has deemed it right, in justification to the original author, to accompany the publication with an explicit statement of the fact."
30. Short Memoir of the Rev. R. E. Garnham, 1814.
31. Short Memoir of the Rev. William Hopkins, B.A. 1815.
32. Dr. Disney also compiled an unpublished Index to the 2 vols. of Mr. Thomas Hollis's Life.

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1816.

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No. IV.



WILLIAM THOMSON, LL. D.

*[With an Account of some of his Friends and Contemporaries.]*

THIS is one of the most extraordinary men of letters of the present age. His name with an exception to poetry, is connected with almost every species of composition, and it would be impossible to write the history of the literature of the reign of George III. without assigning him a place, if not very elevated, at least somewhat conspicuous among the authors of that period. Had his life and adventures been regularly drawn up by himself; and had he favoured the world, like J. J. Rousseau, with "confessions," communicated fairly, honestly, and without reserve, at the close of his life, it

would have been a work truly curious and original. He had been connected with the English press, during a period not far distant from half a century; he was acquainted with a number of renowned veterans in the various branches of science and philosophy, in the southern as well as the northern portion of the United Kingdom, and he had taken by the hand, and conducted towards the temple of fame, a variety of unskilful tyros who were desirous by his means to attain the name of authors, and acquire without any previous labours the applause and approbation of their countrymen.

William Thomson, a native of Scotland, was born in the year 1746, just after the battle of Culloden, which concluded the civil war occasioned by the landing of the *Young Chevalier*, as he was then termed, much in the same manner that the ever memorable battle of Waterloo has terminated the long, portentous, and sanguinary strife on the Continent. The place of his birth was a cottage in the parish of Forteviot in Strathern. This obscure spot is situate six miles from Perth, a place which had largely participated in the then recent disturbances, and about thirty from Edinburgh, the capital, which with an exception to the castle had readily yielded to the power and the pretensions of an adventurous descendant of James II.

The character of the Swiss is said to be tinged by that of their deep valleys and majestic mountains; and the minds of men, perhaps assume somewhat of the hue of those scenes which are familiar to their early infancy. In this point of view, therefore, it may not be improper to observe, that the subject of the present memoir first drew his breath on the banks of the Erne, which, during the floods that frequently occur in spring, autumn, and winter, descends in torrents, and while it exhibits several fine natural cascades, not unfrequently commits great damage in the adjacent *strath* or valley. Some of the stateliest of the Orchil hills too, whence this river derives its source, closely adjoin; and while they terminate this district by means of an immense barrier, they at the same time lift their lofty heads to the skies, now seemingly encumbered with

clouds, now enveloped in snow. At other periods, they exhibit a pleasing variety of sheep, goats, and black cattle, sent thither to graze on their steep and rugged sides.

Matthew Thomson, the father, like the generality of his countrymen, was an industrious and ingenious man, who endeavoured to obtain support for himself and family by the junction of two or three distinct professions; for in the first place he united the trade of a carpenter to that of a builder; while he occasionally appeared in the character of a husbandman, having rented a small farm, from a neighbouring nobleman, whose name will be mentioned hereafter with no common degree of praise. By means of these various avocations, he contrived to bring up a family of thirteen children. His wife was daughter of a neighbouring schoolmaster of the name of Miller, who resided at Airtully, near Dunkeld. To this worthy mother William was indebted for his early proficiency in the rudiments of acquired knowledge. From her he learned to spell and to read English; and perhaps it was no small advantage to his intellects, that he was not born a few miles further among the highlands of Perthshire, as his talents might have been clogged, and his ideas encumbered by means of an additional language. To this same parent he was indebted also, for a religious education, as she instilled into his mind not only the first principles of ethics, but also all the tenets of, superadded to all the respect so commonly attached in this portion of the empire to, the kirk of Scotland. Another fortunate event, perhaps, for it is not meant to be concealed, that his father's circumstances were far more narrow and contracted than his heart — was his being born in Scotland; for to persons of such a condition in England, all hopes of liberal acquirements are too frequently precluded by their station and finances. But the parochial schools of the north, at a mere nominal expence\*, readily admit the youthful and ambitious student to a knowledge of the various branches of

\* The sum then paid to a country schoolmaster in Scotland, could not probably have exceeded one shilling and sixpence per quarter. A salary is wisely attached, in order to supply the deficiency.



education, such as arithmetic and Latin; and the writer of this article, has known mathematics, and even Greek taught there, with no small degree of ability. Into one of these, this young man was accordingly admitted; and under Mr. Young, for that was the name of the obscure, but meritorious school-master, he was initiated in the rudiments of all the various kinds of knowledge that he himself had acquired. His pupil's early promise must have soon developed itself, for this gentleman, having been advanced to a more profitable establishment at Inch Ture, on the banks of the Tay, within the rich district of the Carse of Gowrie, the boy at his special request was suffered to remove along with him. Although but a few miles distance from the paternal cottage, yet this change appears to have been accompanied with some considerable expence, or at least, an addition to the former, such as the father of a very numerous family could not easily support. But here fortune kindly interposed: for the Rev. Mr. Randall who lived in the adjoining *manse*, and had a son about the same age, being charmed with the promising talents of the youth, came forward with equal zeal and success, and it has been said, that an aged branch of the family, cheered with the reputation of his grandson, contributed something on this occasion.

William fully realised all the hopes that had been entertained of him, and in addition to his scholastic improvements, soon discovered a degree of discrimination, as well as knowledge of the world, seldom to be met with at such an early period of life; and it is not a little remarkable, that after he had addicted himself entirely to books, he was eminently deficient in this very quality. The late Dr. Bisset, who knew him well, has given the following example of it, in respect to the clergyman whose name and good offices have been already enumerated.

“ Even when a boy, William Thomson was a penetrating and sagacious observer of men. He very readily discovered the character of his friend Mr. Randall, which was both strongly marked, and peculiar. The Rev. Thomas Randall was a man

of considerable talents and learning, especially in theology; with a dash of *religiousness* which at first sight appeared the genuine enthusiasm of lively fancy and ardent passion, but was not wholly unmixed with policy. At this time most of the great towns in Scotland were enamoured of preachers who gave them what they called the real spirit of the gospel, and inculcated faith and grace, instead of moral virtue. As the livings in towns were more lucrative than in the country, the assumption of this evangelical garb often promoted the ambition of aspiring politicians in the church, as the appearance of loyalty, and what they call zeal for the constitution, often exalts aspiring politicians in the state.

Mr. Randall assisted in the education of his son and young Thomson. He was at incredible pains to inspire the youths with a horror against popery. Thomson mentions the following, as one of the modes by which he endeavoured to imprint on their juvenile minds a proper abhorrence of Anti-Christ. He would shew them a map of Europe, with certain parts marked with red lines. These lines described the progress of the Holy Ghost in correcting sinners, and making the simple wise. Exhibiting to the boys Scotland, with which they were best acquainted, he traced the course of the Holy Spirit through the southern and western counties, wherein the line had no interruption; that is, where enthusiasm had pervaded the whole country. There were small specks or dots of red in eastern and northern parts, where the spirit had occasionally reached, and established detached outposts, though at a great distance from the head quarters.

The red line was not to be seen in Strathmore, the Stomont, or Athol, these being the scenes of pious and rational religion, without puritanical fanaticism.

An extraordinary portion of ochre was, however, placed upon Stirling, an excellent benefice afterwards held by this spiritual geographer himself!

“The contemplation of such a mixture of absurdity and religious profession, tended to give the youthful mind rather a wrong notion on the subject of religion in general, before the

judgment was sufficiently matured to distinguish between genuine piety, and the freaks and fancies of its professors. The same character made a very different impression on William Thomson, a boy of extremely strong parts, and on his companion Thomas Randall the younger, a boy of very moderate abilities, mild and plastic. The former, bold and original, thought for himself; he imbibed no portion of his ghostly director's spiritual sentiments, and perhaps rather merged to the opposite extreme. The latter a mere creature of example and authority, became the very saint that his father wished to form."

The sudden and unexpected death of Mr. Young, the worthy school-master, under whom William had attained considerable proficiency, at length occasioned his removal from Inch Ture to Perth, after a residence of three years in the former spot. This ancient place, built on the banks of the Tay, is not only the chief town in the shire, but also the capital of the adjacent district. Here a new world was opened for the wonder and inspection of a boy, who had been brought up in a little solitary farm-house, and held no intercourse with, and indeed had never before seen any thing larger or more magnificent than a long straggling Scotch village. It was his fortune to be placed at the same grammar school as that in which William Murray, Earl of Mansfield, the very able and eloquent Chief Justice of the King's Bench in England, was educated under a Mr. Martin, then considered as the Caledonian "Busby," on account of his talents and discernment. Mr. Cornfute, the master of that day, who also possessed a considerable degree of shrewdness, took particular notice of his new pupil; and after studying his character, and contemplating his energies, fairly predicted, that under equally favourable circumstances, provided his powers of mind continued to expand with correspondent vigour, Thomson might one day rival Murray in point of talents.

At an early age the subject of this memoir was sent to the University of St. Andrew, founded in 1411, by Bishop Wardlow. It has since been remarked with no small share of

triumph, that the lowest, or initiated class of that year, contained an unusual number of able young men, most of whom afterwards acquired no inconsiderable degree of celebrity in life. William was but fifteen years old when first admitted as luminator; while the Hon. Thomas, now Lord Erskine, was no more than eleven or twelve. Dr. George Hill, did not indeed emigrate towards the south like these young men: but he attained some fame and considerable preferment at home. Having at length become principal of the University where he was educated, and leader of the General Assembly, when Robertson the historian retired from those scenes of sublunary enjoyment. To these names may be added Dr. Moncrief, the physician; the worthy and learned Dr. Pierson, D.D. Minister of the Scotch Church, at Amsterdam; Mr. Niel Ferguson, the Advocate; and Professor Playfair; although "last not least," in this catalogue, being one of the most accomplished mathematicians of the present age.

Notwithstanding Mr. Thomson applied himself, in common with the other students, to mathematics, yet this was not a favourite study; and consequently he never excelled in it. He soon attained great eminence, however, both as a classical scholar and a metaphysician; and such was his reputation in regard to those; that it at length procured him a protector in the person of Thomas Hay, Earl of Kinnoul, whose ancestor George, had exercised the important post of Chancellor of Scotland, during part of the reigns of James I. and Charles I. This worthy nobleman, to whom Thomson's father was a tenant, possessed a fine taste for learning, to which he united great piety. With a generous munificence he was accustomed to encourage every one who displayed any extraordinary degree of proficiency. The promising talents of William Thomson had already become the subject of eulogy and observation within the precincts of the University; and in 1763 he was introduced to the notice of this worthy peer, then their Chancellor, by an express recommendation, on the part of several of the Professors who took a lively interest in his fate and fortune.

Being a man of judgment, however, he determined to decide for himself, and put these boasted talents to a trial before he would undertake to encourage them. An examination accordingly took place, and Horace, Juvenal, and Cicero, were the books selected for the experiment. Finding that the boy's merits fully corresponded with the general opinion entertained of him, he from that moment became the patron of a youth, perhaps still more dear to him by having been born not only in his own vicinity, but also on his own estate. His lordship even condescended to take an active part in his education, and he accordingly prescribed him themes, with a view of improving his latinity; and subjects for essays, for the purpose of meliorating his style: both of which proved eminently serviceable in future life.

This fortunate event occurred when the young man was no more than sixteen or seventeen years of age; soon after which his lordship took the entire charge upon himself, and even admitted him into his own family. Accordingly he was received under the name, and in the capacity of librarian, at Duplin House, where there was a very fine and select collection of books, in different languages, both ancient and modern. Here, during the vacation, William was constantly employed, and here too, he found ample food for an insatiable curiosity, that finally produced both profit and instruction. His labours were doubtless stimulated partly with a view of advancing himself in life, and partly from a wish to please his benefactor; who being greatly addicted to study himself, sat in an adjoining room, whence he could superintend every thing that occurred in the library.

Meanwhile, during the session, the studies of the University were not forgotten, and a course of philosophy obtained for the youth an accession of fame and reputation. But the time was now arrived, when it became necessary to think of a proper destination; and on this, as on all similar occasions, the choice was less directed, perhaps, by what is most congenial to the character and genius of the party; than by the facility of acquiring the favourite object of a settlement. His noble

patron, who was born in 1710, had now attained a mature age; was a zealous member of the established church of Scotland, and held the clerical character in a high degree of estimation. In addition to this, he had several tolerable livings in his own immediate gift. Another speculation, was to obtain the divinity chair of St. Andrew's for his young friend.

Mr. Thomson was accordingly destined for holy orders, and he succeeded in his theological studies precisely as he would have done in any other theoretical pursuit, in which a retentive memory and good understanding paved the way to success. His progress was noted and applauded by the late Dr. Drummond\*, Archbishop of York, who occasionally visited his brother, and consequently had frequent opportunities to see and converse with him. Thus approved and supported, he entered the divinity school with a high character; and the Chancellor, uniformly kind in his attentions on this occasion, obtained for him one of the king's *bursaries*, which, added to his own liberality, produced a comparative state of affluence.

At this period, a certain dry kind of humour began to make its appearance in the conversation of Mr. Thomson, which indeed, never forsook him afterwards during the remainder of his life. Of this the following is an example, which has been communicated by one of his fellow-students.

About the year 1774, while he still attended the divinity school at St. Andrew's, it was the custom on certain days for all the young men, in turn, to read a chapter of the bible, and repeat a prayer, in order to initiate them in the practice of public speaking; for which purpose, in order to increase the audience, many of the respectable towns-people were usually admitted. At length it came to the turn of Alexander Meldrum, a very modest young man, and then, not a little remarkable for his stiffness and formality. The portion of scripture selected on this occasion happened to be the 15th chapter of St. Paul's Epistle to the Corinthians, in which, by

\* His name was originally Hay, being the second son of George Henry Earl of Kinnoul; but he assumed that of Drummond, as heir of entail, to his great-grandfather, William Drummond Lord Strathallan.

hastily scraping out the letter *c*, our wicked candidate for holy orders contrived to render the whole passage ludicrous, viz. – “Behold I shew you a mystery: we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be *hanged* (changed) in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump.” In consequence of this *new reading*, the whole hall was instantly in a *titter*, which increased to a broad laugh, and discomposed the muscles of the grave and venerable Professor of Divinity, when *Willie*, as he was then called, with much assumed gravity exclaimed: “A very quick execution indeed!”

So requisite did it then appear, to acquire a sufficient stock of theology, previously to being admitted a Minister of the Kirk of Scotland, that six years’ attendance at St. Andrew’s was not deemed fully sufficient to qualify a young man for this charge. Two sessions more spent at Edinburgh, were actually supposed necessary on this occasion; and thither Mr. Thomson accordingly departed with the full consent, and doubtless at the express request, of his munificent patron. By the good offices of this kind nobleman, he was introduced to the two great literary stars that then adorned the northern hemisphere: Dr. Blair, at that period so famous for those discourses which, for the first time, rendered eloquence familiar to the Scottish pulpit; and Dr. Robertson, whose talents as an historian, began even then, to render him known and respected throughout England and Europe. By these gentlemen he was treated with singular distinction; they discerned genius and erudition in the young scholar, and at the same time, congratulated themselves on obtaining such a valuable accession to an order of which they themselves were distinguished ornaments.

His social disposition was now fully gratified in the northern capital; and it was there, perhaps, where he first imbibed that eager attachment to conviviality, and “good fellowship,” as it is called, which never forsook him through the remainder of his life. On the other hand, as he excelled in wit and humour, his company was greatly courted by his friends and fellow-students. And here it ought not to be omitted, that about this time, he formed an acquaintance with

Mr. Dugald Stewart, who, although his junior by seven years, already began to give an early promise of that proficiency, which has acquired for him so many literary laurels. With this gentleman he frequently conversed and argued on almost every topic, mathematics apart, contained within the whole circle of science — more especially on moral and political subjects; and above all, on metaphysics, in which they both excelled.

Soon after this, Mr. Thomson was admitted a licensed preacher, previously to which he passed through the fiery ordeal of a long examination, which, indeed, he rather courted than feared; and the longer and far more dreaded ceremony of praying, preaching, and fasting, absolutely necessary, previously to admission.

The following facts shall be detailed in the express words of one of his intimate friends and countrymen, drawn up at a time when he was still living, and probably with his own express participation.

“ Thomson being now licensed to be a preacher, the first degree of Scotch orders, his patron was desirous that he should become assistant to the clergyman of the parish in which Duplin was situated, with the reversion of the living; then held by an old gentleman named Ranken; and proposed to allow a liberal salary out of his own pocket, so that the minister might be relieved from duty without a diminution of income. This intention was intimated to Mr. Ranken, who received it with displeasure, and, like the Archbishop of Grenada, seemed very indignant that any person should presume to discover that he was becoming old. The Earl, disappointed in this project, and seeing no prospect of a speedy vacancy in his own immediate neighbourhood, recommended his pupil to his friend the Earl of Hopetoun, patron of many livings much nearer Edinburgh, the chief seat of Scotch literature. Lord Hopetoun promised Thomson the first vacancy in his gift, if he should not then have a more advantageous benefice.

“ Meanwhile Thomson continued to preach for the clergy



in the neighbourhood, according to the custom of Scotch licentiates, and also continued to superintend the Duplin library. In this repository he one day found a work, that to an antiquarian might have appeared a literary discovery. This was a Latin treatise, purported to be a letter of Archimedes to the King of Syracuse, in which the renowned mathematician, master of the laws of reasoning, uses against the credibility of miracles, precisely the same argument which is employed by Hume. Archimedes cannot believe the fables of the poets, and the prodigies recorded by historians, *because he has no experience of such things himself, nor ever knew any one who had such experience*, and because, as far as he knows of the common course of nature, it is uniformly in opposition to tales of miracles, prodigies, and deviations from the regular phenomena of nature. Thomson discovered this production to have come from the pen of the celebrated Dr. Pitcairn.

“On informing his Lordship of the book which he had been perusing, the Earl told him, he presumed it had been given to his father by the author, with whom the late Earl had been well acquainted; and desired William to translate it into English, which task he performed to the great satisfaction of Lord Kinnoul and his literary friends, Lord Kinnoul had supposed with many others, that Hume denied the truth and the possibility of miracles; Thomson proved to him, that Hume’s real doctrine is not, that miracles are impossible, but improbable; that we have no proper evidence of miracles, but the evidence of experience that they never existed. That this was the doctrine of Hume, though erroneous, his patron was perfectly convinced, by passages referred to by Thomson.

“Whatever influence or power William Thomson could establish, either with a great man, any set of men, or society in general, he could attain only by indirect means. If he had been in public life, he might have commanded high situation, by the extent of his capacity, the masculine force of ratiocinative eloquence, or by parliamentary ability. He would not have *stolen* favour by artifice and finesse. Without any very tedious research, a reader of political history may per-

haps admit that it is possible for such a character to be supplanted by a less capable, but more crafty competitor. Such are to be seen in the houses of 'squires and lords as well as in the palaces of kings. The transcendant ability of Thomson, inspired envy into many of his cotemporaries, and into those who sought the favour of Lord Kinnoul, jealousy. As such could not raise themselves to any thing near an equality with Thomson, they tried to debase him to a level with themselves. One divine in particular had an eye to the most lucrative benefices probably about to become vacant, for himself and a companion of his theological studies, with whom he was very nearly connected.

“ To facilitate this scheme it was necessary to remove Thomson out of the way. About such a house as Duplin toad-eaters were not wanting. One of these, a female, into whom celibacy infused additional asperity, and hardened rigid orthodoxy, was much delighted with the clergymen in question, because, though not very deep, they were evangelical preachers. Through this toad-eater these divines suggested to Lord Kinnoul, that an opportunity opened for procuring the reversion of a good living to their much-respected friend, Mr. Thomson: that old Mr. Porteus of Monivaird would be extremely thankful for such an assistant ordained as his successor. Porteus, who had been predisposed by them for this arrangement, coincided; and his Lordship agreed. Thomson, though he discerned the influence and motives of the *secret advisers*, and was himself averse to any appointment that would cause his absence from Duplin at a time when his presence was necessary to counteract hostile machinations, yet would not refuse an offer intended, he well knew, by his patron, for his benefit. The Earl promised that his new employment should not impede his exertions in his favour. He allowed Thomson fifty pounds a year out of his private purse during the life of Mr. Porteus, and obtained twenty pounds more from the landholders.

“ The presbytery of Auchterarder, to which the parish of Monivaird belonged, was remarkable for religious gloom and

fanatical austerity.\* If a minister would be popular here, it was necessary for him to be rigidly severe in his manners, as well as rigorously adherent to all the horrors of puritanical orthodoxy. Thomson was neither the one nor the other. He associated more with the lairds, who are generally free and jovial, than with the ministers and elders; he amused himself with hunting and fishing; nay, he had even the ungodliness to play on the violin. Indeed, in the presbytery, he acquired the character of a *bon vivant* and pleasant companion, rather than that of a godly minister. His sermons cost him little trouble. By meditating a few minutes on the Sunday morning, he was able to deliver a discourse replete with sense and eloquence, while some of his brethren were at hard labour through the whole week, to strain out a sufficient quantity of mystical nonsense. This difference of character and talents made Thomson very unpopular with some of his brethren. Though, on the whole, he was much liked even in the presbytery of Auchterarder. In his own parish he was extremely beloved, not only by the gay Highlanders, but even by the grave and somewhat melancholy Lowlanders.† Being ordained in 1776, the following year he acquired very great fame, by a speech which he delivered in the General Assembly, and on the following occasion:—A person of the name of Lawson, whose father was obnoxious to some of the orthodox clergy, had applied for a licentiate's orders.

“Against the young man's character and qualifications there could be no objection. Some of the ministers, however, opposed him on account of an extreme uncouthness in his manners and great ignorance of the world, and particularly of every thing approaching to genteel life; although his family possessed no inconsiderable estate in the parish of Auchterarder. The real truth was, that Campbell, the minister of Auchterarder, entertained a grudge at Mr. Lawson's father, for having

\* See Newte's Tour through Scotland and England, p. 251.

† The parish of Mouivaird, on the frontier of the Grampians, descends into the valley of Strathern.

opposed his appointment to the kirk of Auchterarder. Thomson, who was chosen, in 1777, one of the deputies or representatives of the presbytery in the General Assembly, to which Mr. Lawson had appealed, supported the appeal that had been made by Mr. Lawson, on the ground that students of divinity have claims to ordination, having gone through the prescribed course of study, if nothing can be urged against their literary attainments, or their moral character, although they should be deficient in what the French call *petites mœurs*, or manners: ‘The churches of the Reformation,’ said Mr. Thomson, after a good deal of serious reasoning, ‘in general, but that of Scotland in particular, have been much indebted to rustic apostles; and in the presbytery of Auchterarder, in particular, this excessive studiousness of fashion and politeness is but a novelty.’

“Such an apostle appeared near two thousand years ago on the banks of the Jordan, preaching repentance, and announcing the approaching reign of grace and the remission of sins. The world confessed his right to preach a doctrine he so well practised, and the united effect of precept and example was prodigious. But had this preacher, in the spirit of Elias, come, or should he yet appear on the banks of the Ern, and seek the communion of our good presbytery, begirt, as he was, with a leathern belt, clothed in the skin of a camel, and chewing the while his locusts and sucking his wild honey: ‘Pray Sir,’ it would be asked, ‘who is your barber? We should be ashamed to be seen with you on the *town-lone*\* of Auchterarder.’

“At these words the whole assembly was moved with laughter, and his Grace the Commissioner himself, (who, in the Assembly, represents the person of the King,) the Earl of Dalhousie, relaxing his gravity, laughed heartily. At his table, a few days thereafter, he took much notice of Mr. Thomson, and said, ‘We are all indebted to you, Mr. Thomson, you really made us laugh a great deal.’ But laughter was not the only emotion excited by Mr. Thomson: he was equally

\* The street.

successful in rousing sympathy with Lawson, and indignation against Campbell; as we learn from the Rev. Mr. Macauley, a friend of Lawson's, who published Mr. Thomson's speech, or the substance of it, in the *Caledonian Mercury*.

"The decision in Lawson's case was of great importance to all students of divinity, to all who might entertain prospects of settling relations or dependents in church-livings, and to the unity and very existence of the Church of Scotland, as Mr. Thomson showed, to the satisfaction and approbation of the Assembly. And though there was on this question about Lawson, as it was treated by Thomson, a great deal of the ludicrous, it was considered by Dr. Robertson and his friends as a very serious question. The presbytery of Auchterarder, when pushed from the ground of rejection they had taken, said, that they had an arbitrary power of receiving or rejecting a candidate for being received on trial, without being accountable to the General Assembly, or any other court, than that of their own conscience.

"This presbytery was distinguished from all the presbyteries in Scotland by puritanical rigour of discipline, though not by any means by purity of manners; by a Pharisaical pride, and a spirit of refractiousness against the authority of the Church. They were not satisfied with the *Confession of Faith*, nor yet even the *Solemn League and Covenant*, but framed a creed, known for half a century by the name of the *Auchterarder Creed*. It was distinguished by the highest pitch to which Antinomianism could be strained; by the position that very few indeed were to be saved though many were called: and that hell fire was not a metaphor, but that the bodies of the ungodly would be re-united to their souls, for the purpose of being burned, though not consumed by an intense elementary fire, to all eternity.

"This presbytery pretended, in a word, to be an independent church by itself, and in all cases, being best acquainted with local circumstances, to set at nought the decisions of the Assembly, even those for the induction of ministers into church-livings by the law of patronage, and, in all cases, to do what

they themselves conceived to be for the interest of the kirk, and the glory of God and the good of souls. So that the question of Lawson was ultimately connected with that system of subordination, unity, and alliance between the church and the state, for which Dr. Robertson had with so much honour and success contended.

“ During the few years that Mr. Thomson was minister of Monivaird, he was invited by Dr. Robertson to correspond with him, which he did with much pleasure to himself, and as much amusement, as we have been well informed, to Dr. Robertson, who always spoke of Mr. Thomson with great kindness, and an apparent anxiety for his welfare. The celebrity acquired by Mr. Thomson at the General Assembly was very pleasing to his patron, the Earl of Kinnoul. The living-hunters, amounting to three in all, when they went to Duplin, where the clergy of all parts were always welcome, admitted that Mr. Thomson possessed great talents; and lamented that he should not put them to a better use. They said every thing against Lawson, whom they represented as devoid of common sense. They exaggerated Thomson’s convivial indulgences, and began to make an impression on the Earl. Indeed, his Lordship might have long seen, that William Thomson was little fitted for being a clergyman where so much rigidity was required.

“ Thomson’s pleasurable propensities, which he was supposed not always to confine within the bounds which ascetic puritanism prescribes, though no instance was accurately ascertained, yet were the subjects of reports, that, pervading the country, reached the ear of his patron. Thomson deemed it expedient to resign his charge; and not choosing to seek another church living in a less censorious place, he resolved to bid adieu to Scotland, and to try his fortune in London, a scene much more suitable to first-rate genius and learning than the presbytery of Auchterarder. Mr. Thomson’s noble patron, in whose breast an affectionate concern for one, whom, from his seventeenth year, he had brought up and educated in his own family, was not wholly extinguished by a conduct,

certainly not altogether becoming a minister of the gospel, gave orders to Mr. Henry Fowler, one of the principal clerks of the Treasury, and who, like Thomson, had been brought up in his own family, to pay him his yearly allowance as usual, until he should feel his way in London.\* Mr. Thomson did not call for it more than two or three years; whether that, in so short a time he had wrought himself into tolerably good circumstances, or that he was desirous, from vanity or pride, to have it thought, in his native country, that he was so.

“The circumstance of his receiving his pension from the Earl of Kinnoul, through a clerk of the Treasury, gave rise to a very droll incident. As he came out of the Treasury, the very first time he went to draw his 50l., he was met by Professor Dunbar of Aberdeen, whose great object it was, by political writing, to make himself of consequence to government. As they walked together along Parliament-Street †, Dr. Dunbar asked Thomson where he was going? and whether they might not go some where and dine together? Thomson, without hesitation told him, that he was going to Mr. Drummond’s the banker, to get money for a draft from Mr. Fowler, and that he would then be in proper circumstances to dine with him. He told Dunbar that he might go to Drummond’s along with him. He did so; he saw the money paid; and was immediately convinced that, though he himself had not obtained any thing, and scarcely any attention, on account of his essays, this fellow had already been taken into the pay of the Treasury. After dinner he fairly put the question, whether he was not in

\* Dr. Thomson once informed the writer of this note, that the country people in the neighbourhood of the Earl of Kinnoul’s seat at Duplin, were never able to comprehend the real reasons of his lordship’s attachment to him. In consequence of this, they were accustomed to attribute his kindness and munificence to selfish and sensual motives, and they accordingly considered the young man as his illegitimate son.

† The gentleman here mentioned was one of the professors at King’s College, Old Aberdeen, where he usually passed by the same appellation as the father of the Heathen Deities. Happening to be demonstrating an abstruse proposition during a dull and dreary afternoon, to his own class, the members of which seemed to be very drowsy, he suddenly resumed his usual energy by exclaiming: “were I Jove himself thundering from the top of Olympus, you would not hear me!” He is said to have been of the three men on the north side of the river Don who objected to the American war.

the pay of the ministry? Thomson to teaze and vex Dunbar, confirmed him in the belief that it was so, by slightly denying it, or evading the question, and turning the subject."

We now behold Mr. William Thomson an inhabitant of London, an immense capital abounding with riches, misery, and temptations; and holding out honours, preferment, and advantages of all kinds to successful candidates of every denomination. But the fame of our future author had not preceded him, from the northern to the southern capital; and as yet he had not composed any work calculated to attract either the applauses, or the confidence of strangers, so that he was destitute of friends. In short he might have remained here in obscurity for many years, and wasted all his "sweetness in the desert air," had not a circumstance occurred, that at once produced for him, both bread and celebrity. Dr. Robert Watson, late Principal of the United Colleges of St. Andrew's, had died in the year 1780. He had projected a history of Philip III. King of Spain, which of course comprehended the revolt of the provinces of the Netherlands, (including Holland,) from his iron yoke; and as this subject was intimately connected with the insurrection then actually existing in our Trans-Atlantic provinces; it was expected to become a very popular and interesting work. In order to realise this object, the author had commenced a correspondence with several of his countrymen settled in foreign parts, and particularly with the late Dr. Maclean, and some of the ministers of the Church of Scotland, resident in the United Provinces. Unfortunately, however, this learned divine died at the age of fifty, before he had completed his labours, and the sequel of an unfinished manuscript, remained to be composed by another hand. This became an object of great consideration, both to his fame and his family, for he had left some orphan daughters but scantily provided for, and excited great hopes of gratification on the part of his countrymen. It was a lucky circumstance, both for Mr. Thomson, and the young ladies, that two of their guardians were his friends; for they consisted of the Doctors Robertson and Blair; the venerable Mr. George



Dempster, Ex-M.P. who is the sole survivor of them all; and the late Mr. James Shaw \*, their uncle, who afterwards became an author himself. These gentlemen selected him to revise, correct, and finish the original sketch. This task, delicate, and difficult as it assuredly proved under the auspices of Mr. Thomson, who was indefatigable both in his labours and researches, advanced rapidly to a conclusion, and finally obtained the commendation of all his employers; while it proved a source of considerable profit and advantage to the family of the deceased historian. It was the opinion of no contemptible judge — Dr. Adam Smith — that the latter was the better portion of the work.

“ Dr. Maclean, of the Hague,” observes he, “ who was writing of those times and affairs, was very much afraid of Dr. Watson, and Dr. Watson was very much afraid of Dr. Maclean; but I could have told them, that they had very little occasion to be afraid of one another. There was one of whom they little thought (Thomson), and who did not possess half of their advantages of leisure and libraries, who was formidable to both.”

On this occasion, the continuator's multifarious knowledge, proved of great avail; his generalising habits afforded him ample opportunity for compressing and condensing both his narrative and his arguments; while the hope of fame and the fear of disappointment, contributed not a little to give that neatness and precision to his language, which he afterwards neglected, partly in consequence of the multiplicity of labours assigned to him; and partly from mere inattention.

That the fortunate conclusion of this work, obtained considerable fame for the present, and abundance of future employment to Mr. Thomson cannot be doubted; and it ought not to be forgotten, that the share of the profits assigned him, proved a considerable encouragement to a young man, whose resources were both scanty and pre-

\* This gentleman, the son of the late Professor Shaw of St. Andrew's, was greatly addicted to the study of natural history; and some years since, wrote and published a work, entitled, “ Sketches of the Netherlands,” which he had recently visited.

carious. Nor ought it here to be omitted, that his friends, of whom he had then many, obtained for him the unsolicited degree of LL. D. from the University of Glasgow; while a second offer of the *doctorate*, arrived soon after from Edinburgh.

We are from this moment to consider Dr. Thomson, as a regular London author, not indeed like the literary men of Germany, who annually prepare their works for the express purpose of being sold at the fair of Frankfort; but one always ready and willing to treat for a 4to. 8vo. or 12mo. volume, no matter on what subject, with any eminent or adventurous booksellers of the day. He was also not unfrequently employed either to revise or review the works of living authors; so that he was not inaptly termed by a celebrated lady, whose *embrio* novels he was supposed to frame, train, and render productive, "a professional critic." In short, he opened a kind of literary *Bazaar*, in which ware of all sorts and sizes for the library, might be obtained in a finished state, and he must be allowed, indeed, to have been eminently distinguished, in respect to the variety of his labours, employments, and speculations. In consequence of the wants of an encreasing family, he was now obliged literally to write for their support, and consequently, on all possible subjects, connected with the politics, the history, or the passing occurrences of the times in which he lived.

The next employment of any magnitude, in which we find our industrious author employed, was a "Commentary on the Bible;" this was published not in his own name, but in one supposed to be *lent* for the occasion; that of a reverend divine, then a popular preacher in London. His booksellers, on this occasion, were Messrs. Fielding and Walker of Paternoster-Row, a part of the city in which he soon became not only well known, but eminent and conspicuous in no small degree.

Business, and that too of a different and respectable kind, flowed in apace. At the recommendation of the late Dr. Douglas, afterwards Bishop of Salisbury, who had read, and approved of his *Magnum Opus* \*; he was fixed on by Dr. Hol-

\* History of Philip III.

lingberry \*, to be both translator and and editor of a history of Great Britain, during an interesting period. This was originally written in Latin, by Alexander Cunningham, born at Ethrick, near Selkirk in Scotland, in 1654, but educated in Holland.

In consequence of this latter circumstance he was induced, while a young man, to accompany William III. then Prince of Orange to England. After a variety of employments and adventures he became English Resident at Venice, in which station he continued during five years. He then repaired to England, and died in London, in 1737. After a lapse of fifty years, in 1787, appeared his "History of Great Britain, from the revolution to the accession of George I. in two volumes, 8vo. translated from the Latin manuscript by Dr. William Thomson." Of the original merits of this production, the writer of the present article has often heard him speak with applause.

Sometime anterior to this, however, he had written a work in which a vigorous fancy was not a little predominant. This was "The Man in the Moon," a whimsical title, calculated to excite attention and attract notice. It abounds with fancy, combined with criticism and learning. The author is at great pains to point out all the objects worthy of research, within the circle of science and philosophy, in this sublunary world. His sketch of the metaphysical philosophers, has been praised by some of his contemporaries; and he is anxious, like Pope, to discriminate between laborious dulness, and spontaneous genius. While he employs the ridicule of Swift against all lovers of *vertù*; — superficial naturalists, herbalists, and antiquaries, find no favour with him.

In 1782, appeared Travels in Europe, Asia, and Africa, which of course was not an original production; for the work was composed in London, from the communications of others. This was followed, in 1788, by Memoirs of the War in Asia, from 1780 to 1784; an interesting period for all those who were connected with our settlements in the East, either by

\* Dr. Hollingberry had married Cunningham's grand-daughter.

residence or commerce, and indeed to the whole nation in a general point of view. - In the course of this work, he portrays with a considerable degree of ability, the disastrous state of our Asiatic possessions, in consequence of our having employed all our forces, and nearly exhausted all our finances, by a long, sanguinary, and unprofitable contest with our American colonies. He exhibits the imminent danger, arising from the power and talents of Hyder Ally, who had entered into a formidable league with France, and rendered himself renowned by his valour, his victories, and his resources. He then reverses the medal, and displays the talents employed against him, both in the cabinet and the field; the means adopted to obtain success, and finally, the termination of the contest by a secure and honourable peace.

Obligated to recur to unceasing labour and continual exertions, in consequence of the *res angusta domi*, a number of nameless works were revised, edited, or produced by the Doctor, in rapid succession. It was not until 1789, indeed, a period when the minds of other men were principally occupied in political speculations, that he produced another work of fiction, combined with a certain portion of science. His "Mammoth, or Human Nature displayed on a Grand Scale, &c." appeared also, at this important period. In this work, he seems desirous to "justify the ways of God to man," by exhibiting in our nature and destination, certain capabilities, not only of happiness, but also of high intellectual attainments, provided they are but properly and solely directed towards their respective ends. As on a former occasion, he had Swift's "Gulliver" in his eye, so he recurs to the same production on the present; but in express opposition to that satirist of human nature, he displays mankind in an amiable and interesting point of view.

But Dr. William Thomson did not wholly confine his exertions to works connected with history or imagination, with travels, voyages, or romances. There were no species of literature in which he did not participate; and in which he was not thought at one time also to excel. In newspapers, maga-

zines, and reviews, he engaged with an ardour, and to a degree, scarcely credible. An excellent memory, joined to an extensive and almost universal knowledge, rendered him a good reporter \*, and accordingly, he was sometimes engaged for the session, and sometimes for a single evening or two only, when debates on great national questions were expected.

It is well known that the late Mr. William Woodfall was the first who ventured on details of this kind; and it was not without *peril*, as he himself was accustomed to assert, that he published an account of the proceedings in parliament. In point of talent and acquirements, he was far outstripped by the subject of this memoir; who, on the other hand, must be fairly owned to have found a superior in the person of Mr. James Sheridan, an accomplished Irishman, no way connected however with his celebrated namesake, whose speeches he was accustomed to detail, with wonderful accuracy, point, and precision; as well as those of Mr. Fox. They have been all equalled, if not eclipsed, by some young men of the present day, most of whom have received a liberal education; and in point of conduct, character, and talents, rank as gentlemen.

In the course of this fatiguing and laborious ministry, Dr. Thomson exerted himself frequently for the "Oracle," and, if we are not misinformed, also occasionally for the "Morning Chronicle," and other daily papers. He was of course, accustomed to sit up during the whole night, and it was not until broad day-light, after the members had retired to their beds, that his labours, in respect to penmanship, commenced. It was then, that over a bottle of port, or some other requisite refreshment, if it could possibly be procured, he would sit down and disburthen a mind, fraught with the eloquence of other men; and it was not until near the hour of publication,

\* Thomson is said, by a good judge, to have been rather an inattentive reporter, at times; and to have sometimes supplied any deficiency, arising from this neglect, by the resources of his own mind. On its being one day observed, that a particular speech was not "that actually delivered by the member," he replied: "it was a foolish one, not worth remembering; I therefore *made* another, and a better one for him!"

that he was permitted to retire to his family. In addition to this species of composition, he was accustomed to furnish dissertations, essays, and paragraphs; and as he was regularly paid in ready money, this employment, if not more congenial to his mind, was at least more suitable to his wants than those works for which he received a more inadequate consideration, and that too, by means of what he termed the *long-winded* notes of booksellers. He also published, for many years, a weekly abridgement of politics in the "Whitehall Evening Post," which redounded greatly to the credit of that paper. As this publication was entirely devoted to the interest of Mr. Pitt, and the Ministers then in place, it may be readily supposed, that the principles there favoured and inculcated were not eminently hostile to their administration. At length, however, in an evil hour, and by the exertion of an independent spirit, which deprived him and his family of upwards of fifty guineas a year; his dismissal actually took place in 1798. On this occasion, Dr. Thomson, after perusing, examining, and detailing the evidence produced against Aris, the Keeper, or "Governor of the House of Correction in Cold-Bath-Fields," proclaimed the horrors, cruelties, and injustice, that were then and there said to be perpetrated. Mr. Pitt, in open Parliament, had indeed in a manly manner, avowed his sense of, and indignation at his misconduct. Subsequently to this period two Grand Juries have made a presentment against this jail; and the Magistrates at length, by a tardy, but just sentence, finally agreed to his dismissal. On this occasion, Dr. William Thomson, became the victim of his humanity; and was thus deprived of a considerable sum, easily earned by the labours of two or three hours, during the morning of publication. It will be readily supposed, that he was not actuated by any political consideration; for although at the commencement of the French Revolution, he suffered his mind to be dazzled, for a time, by its splendours; yet it is well known to all familiar with him, that he considered politics nearly with the same indifference as a game at chess; and

never disturbed his slumbers, or injured his interests, by any feelings or considerations of this kind.

In other periodical publications, he was also engaged during many years. Not only the review of new works, with an account of their authors, in the "European Magazine," was conducted through many volumes by him alone; but he was also employed in composing other portions of it. In the "Political Herald" too, a weekly pamphlet, supposed to be conducted on true Whig principles, although wholly and entirely devoted to the coalition of that day, he took an active, but subordinate part, under the name of *Ignotus*; the chief conduct and advantages accruing from it, being reaped by the celebrated author of the "History of Mary Queen of Scots." He also engaged in the "Critical Review," until a dispute took place with Mr. Hamilton.

So great now, however, was his fame, that like Dr. Johnson; he was generally applied to for a preface to many a new book, and almost every monthly publication, on its first appearance, was ushered into the world by his pen. When Mr. Wheble first printed the "Sportsman's Magazine," he actually addressed our author; and although no man in the kingdom was so little acquainted with the nature and habits of hounds, horses, and hares, yet he sat down and instantly composed a dissertation on these subjects, for which he received a couple of guineas. The *technical* part was afterwards added by the Editor, who perhaps deemed the introductory essay too fine and luminous for the intellects of his readers.

It has already been stated that the subject of this memoir lost a small annual subsidy, by his attack of one Governor; and it now remains to be added, that fortune at length amply indemnified him by rendering his aid necessary to the defence of another. The impeachment of Warren Hastings, Esq., late Governor-General of Bengal, opened an ample field for discussion; and the long and cruel protraction of that gentleman's trial, however terrible to him, tended not a little to the benefit and advantage of all his advocates; notwithstanding they earnestly, loudly, and unanimously protested against it.

In the English Review, for which he wrote during many years, while it belonged to another, and which afterwards became his own property, as well as squibs, pamphlets, and separate publications, particularly by an "Introduction to the History of the Trial," Dr. T. sustained the character, supported the innocence, and justified the intentions of this singular and celebrated man. His humanity was all alive on a former occasion, to the distresses of the prisoners, supposed to be maltreated in his own country; but the cries and distresses of the Begums and the native princes, never once appear to have quivered in his ears! His zeal on this occasion, of course, recommended him to Major Scott, who became acquainted with the Doctor, through Mr. John Murray, an eminent bookseller, then residing in Fleet-street. He was afterwards introduced to the Ex-Governor and his lady, whom he was accustomed, in the warmth of his admiration, to compare to "King Solomon and the queen of Sheba."

At this period, he resided in Fitzroy-square, and by this time had formed an acquaintance with a number of respectable men. Among these, was the present Sir James Mackintosh, a gentleman much younger than himself, the echo of whose early reputation had already been heard from the Scottish capital; and was about to resound, by means of his *Vindiciæ Gallicæ*, throughout the whole empire. At an earlier period, and by means of Dr. Moncrief, his class-fellow, at Edinburgh, he had become acquainted with Dr. Gilbert Stuart, the eloquent apologist of all those in opposition to the testimony of his countryman, Buchanan, whom he respected, and his contemporary and rival, Dr. Robertson, whom he hated and abused. "Gibby," as he was accustomed familiarly to term him, was his senior by four years; and although the son of a Professor, and himself a candidate for the same office, after a regular education at the University of Edinburgh; yet we have heard his friend assert, and appeal to their common acquaintance, Dr. Grant, for the truth of the position, that although he excelled in composition, and possessed a variety of other knowledge, that yet he was actually unacquainted with the common



divisions of science and philosophy. Under this gentleman, as has been already observed, he composed several papers for the "Political Herald," for which the former, as the ostensible Editor, was handsomely paid; while the latter received but a scanty remuneration. But it was as a "boon companion," that he was intimately connected with this gentleman, who was greatly addicted to conviviality, and that too in a manner, and to an excess which can scarcely be credited by one who is acquainted with the elegant effusions of his polished mind. The "Peacock," in Gray's-Inn-Lane, was the scene of their festivities, and it was there that these learned Doctors, in rivulets of Burton ale, not unfrequently quaffed libations to their favourite deity, until the clock informed them of the approaching day.

At length the constitution of Dr. Stuart succumbed; a dropsy began to threaten him with dissolution, and he took a sea voyage to the place of his nativity, for the express purpose of recovering his health. While in this situation, he was much amused by the gambols of the seals at the entrance into the Frith of Forth, and on enquiring of the captain of the packet on what they subsisted, he was told in reply: "salmon and salt water." This seemed to excite his compassion, for he instantly rejoined: "very good meat but very bad drink!"

In following the series of his literary labours, we shall endeavour as much as possible to preserve dates. As he excelled in summaries and abridgments, and might be allowed to have abounded in general knowledge, our author greatly delighted in narrative and dissertation. For many years he had been profitably engaged in composing articles of criticism, together with the political and literary appendices to Murray's "English Review," the latter of which were written chiefly, if not solely by his own pen. But in 1794, when he became sole proprietor, the sale dropt, and the concern ceased to be advantageous, as the work was no longer committed to the fostering hand of that "nursing father," a London bookseller. At length, after a fair trial of three or four years, under his own exclusive management, he was forced entirely

to relinquish it. He accordingly applied to the late Mr. Joseph Johnson, of St. Paul's Church-yard, who, at length, incorporated it with the "Analytical Review," to which the Doctor transferred, for a considerable time, a continuation of the former *Appendix*.

At the plain but hospitable table of the publisher, he was frequently a guest about this period, and among the rest of the company, Mrs. Wolstonecroft, who was usually present, occupied a distinguished place. She was then highly interesting, being in the height of her youth, beauty, and literary pretensions; but her merits seem to have been either utterly unknown to, or overlooked by the Doctor; for happening one afternoon to be left *tête-a-tête* with her, he soon after fell asleep, and snored aloud. The lady was accustomed to laugh heartily when she recited this circumstance.

In 1793, was published a volume of "Travels in the Western Hebrides, from 1782 to 1790." This appeared under the name of the "Rev. John Lane Buchanan, A.M. Missionary Minister to the isles from the Church of Scotland;" but Dr. Thomson ought to be deemed the real author, having contrived, from a few notes of this clergyman\*, to form a small 8vo. volume. Before this period, the Western *Æbudæ* were but little known to the public, having been scarcely ever mentioned, except by Donald Monro, whose opinions and descriptions were quoted and implicitly followed by George Buchanan, in his history of Scotland. Here was a new field opened, for no professed modern traveller had ever entered those secluded isles, of Lewis, Harris, both the Uists, Barra, &c. some of which are distant no less than 70 miles from the main land, and none else but a missionary would ever have peregrinated thither. According to the deplorable account here given: "the wigwams of the wild Indians of America are equally good, and better furnished," than the cottages of the unhappy and oppressed peasantry of Harris. If the account which now lies open before the writer of the present article be true, or

\* The Rev. Missionary's real name is said to have been "Macgreigor."

even nearly correct, the African Society ought to send travellers thither, and Mr. Wilberforce, now that the slave trade has been happily abolished, should transfer his attention to those miserable shores. According to this narrative, the ancient mancrial bondage still exists in all its horrors; the labours of fifty-two days in the year are demanded from some of the unhappy tenants; others of them are obliged to foster their "master's children," without wages; while the state of the "Scallag" is assuredly far inferior to that of the negro in the West Indies; for they both seem, indeed, to live and labour under the terrors and torture of the whip; but with this difference, that while the Æbudean slave is here represented as starving during the whole year; the slave of the torrid zone, has at least the chance of getting sleek and fat, during crop time! Humanity teaches us charitably to hope that the original author was imposed upon; or that the Doctor was induced, by his representations, to colour and varnish an exaggerated tale! But if it be otherwise — and surely the subject is worthy of enquiry, by actual inspection on the part of the curious, inquisitive, and humane travellers of the present day, — it is to be hoped that the public indignation will be aroused, and that the Scallags of those remote isles will at length be liberated from an illegal and intolerant bondage.

A few months before this, a work had appeared, entitled, "Travels into Norway, Denmark, and Russia," by A. Swinton, Esq., who is represented as "the near relation" of the celebrated Admiral Greig, who had acted as commander of one of the fleets fitted out by Catharine II. This volume has also been attributed to Dr. Thomson, who, if not the original penman, at least, under the character of an editor, is supposed to have made it assume its present shape and form. He was intimately acquainted, indeed, about this period, with a gentleman of some celebrity, who was a native of the north of Europe; and we perceive that Professor Thorkelyn of Copenhagen, has furnished a curious Appendix, consisting of "words common to the Scotch, Icelanders, and Danes." As two travellers of some eminence had recently explored the northern

parts of Europe, and communicated their remarks to the public, it became necessary to dispute their authority, and undervalue their opinions; here follows a curious specimen, not only of the art of book-making, in England, but also as an incident to it, the necessary ability to write down and depreciate all antecedent productions.

“ Mr. Wraxal made a tour of 2000 miles around the Baltic, in the course of five months. It is impossible either to disregard the admirable alacrity of this gentleman's movements, or to suppose that he had it in his power to draw many of his reflections from actual observation. Mr. Coxe travelled at a pace somewhat slower, and much more solemn. He has given us many accurate and useful details concerning manufactures, commerce, population, public revenue, military establishments, and the ceremonials observed in various interviews with which he was honoured by nobles, princes, and kings. These, together with historical extracts from a great number of writers, with multiplied experiments on the congelations of mercury made by different philosophers, at different times and places, swell his volumes to a respectable size as well as price.

“ It is not, however, long details, biographical, historical, or philosophical, that are expected by every reader to form the principal parts of books of travels. What the traveller himself observed, inferred, suffered, or enjoyed — but above all, manners, customs, dress, modes of life, domestic economy, amusements, arts, whether liberal or mechanical, and in a word, whatever tends to illustrate the actual state of society, and that not only among the great, but the body, and even the very lowest of the people: all this, in the opinion of those who read rather for amusement, than the study of either politics or natural philosophy, should enter into those narratives which are supposed to hold a kind of middle rank between the solidity of studied discourse and the freedom of colloquial conversation.

“ It is on this humble ground that the author of this volume, notwithstanding what has been published by the respectable gentlemen above-mentioned, is induced to offer to the public

a variety of observations, which he has been enabled to make by frequent voyages to Denmark, and a residence of several years in Russia."

An endeavour is here very laudably made to interest every Briton, by describing the "Skaw," being the first part of Denmark seen by our traveller, and which forms the north part of Jutland, "as the ancient Cimbrica Chersonesus, from whence issued that race of people called *Angles*, who conquered England, and gave their name to our country." The author, to familiarise the reader with the views before him, seems to rejoice, and be joyful amidst scenes which other men usually hold in horror: "I delight to see nature in her winter uniform — to be surrounded with rugged rocks, and frozen oceans." "I sit down," continues he, "for the purpose of writing to you, by a snug fire in the cabin; but the ship rolls in such a manner, that it is with difficulty I can either hold my pen or keep my temper. Perhaps it is the *kraken* that moves his huge sides under me? Where shall I find a tub large enough to be thrown out to such a whale; whose eyes behold his tail at the distance of three miles; Surely the works of creation are sufficient of themselves to fill and expand the human mind, though they should not derive any additional grandeur from the affrighted imagination."

But while the author here affects to ridicule the dreams of the good Norwegian Bishop Pontoppidan, yet, lest his own narrative should be wholly deficient in the *wonderful*, he introduces to our notice a Norwegian ship-master and his mate, "who in the year 1786, made oath before the magistrates of Dundee, that they had seen a large fish within a few leagues of the coast of Scotland, *which they judged to be three miles in length.*" This the editor gravely maintains to have been the sea-worm described by the "suffragan of Bergen," and boldly asserts, that it "drags its slow length of about one hundred yards."

He then enters into a discussion relative to the supposed proportion between the size of animals and the planets they inhabit. Some philosophers we are told, give to the human beings in Saturn an altitude of "sixty feet;" and if their conjec-

tures be right, "the people of Mercury will not exceed seven or nine inches in height."

The French Revolution, which had begun about this time to exhibit a formidable aspect, also furnishes ample scope for notice and amplification. Here follows a passage, however, that will be deemed to be prophetic of some of the events that have actually occurred :

"It is unfortunately to be apprehended, from so lively and fickle a people as the French, that they will not be satisfied with that national degree of freedom which is consistent with good government: that they will dream of golden ages before the clouds of their morn are removed from the horizon; and request, in childish fits of liberty, for the very crown of their monarch to play with.

"As this nation has long given us the patterns for our clothes, they will no doubt now attempt to give us patterns of freedom.

"Alas! the consequence of such attempts will stir up an additional number of enemies to those who will naturally oppose them, even in their just claims to the liberties of men. Their foolish effort to go beyond the bounds of rational liberty, may give just cause to the sovereigns of Europe to endeavour to prevent the contagious example from spreading among their subjects; and in the struggle the French may lose a part of their newly redeemed inheritance. If the French should abuse what is now in their power to obtain,—a free and equitable government and laws, it may rather retard than forward the cause of freedom throughout Europe. The bloody struggle, both of civil and foreign war, may deter other nations from endeavouring to shake off the chains of despotism, when they see these succeeded by anarchy and devastation."

This work, consisting of a single volume, is dedicated to the Empress Catharine; it contains a spirited print of an equestrian statue of Peter I., and on the whole is written in such a manner, as either to interest or amuse every reader. Recent events, too, have assuredly justified the high opinion

here entertained of Norway, in express opposition to travellers of great note, who, after visiting it in person about this period, actually described that country as an incumbrance to Denmark.

Nearly at the same time, we find Dr. Thomson once more in the field; for Dr. Parr about this time introduced him to Mr. Windham, and having published a "Sequel to a printed Paper lately circulated by the Rev. Charles Curtis\*," he addressed a letter to his learned friend, which abounds with many general observations, accompanied by a few pertinent and pithy sentences relative to the French Revolution. It is pretty plain that our author had not as yet made up his mind relative to the part he was to take on this grand question; for while all allowed his moderation, neither of the great parties in the nation could deem him either an ally or a confederate. In the first place he appeared under the auspices of a reverend sage, who was supposed to think favourably of the general principles by which a neighbouring nation was actuated at that precise period; and, in the next, he does not seem to have been at all unfriendly to innovation, when improvement was the object; having frankly avowed, that it is now "time that men, leaving the mere coastings of usage and precedent, should steer by the polarity of reason." On the other hand, both here and in the English Review, he seems to suppose, that the French philosophers were too rapid in their movements; they did not sufficiently accommodate their changes to the gradual variation of minds and circumstances; and supposed mind to be equally plastic and ductile with matter. He also prefers gradual to sudden and radical alterations in systems.

"When shall natural philosophers," he asks, "arrive at the art of raising the marble from the solid rock into arches and pillars, and other forms of architecture, by means of the projectile force of gunpowder? Scarcely is it less difficult for the moral philosopher to combine the awakened propensities and discordant views of millions in one harmonious and perma-

nent political system. But if the *momentum* of those propensities and views be not calculated with due exactness, the powder of passion, instead of raising a goodly political fabric, will cover the fair face of nature with volcanic ashes. Poets have ascribed certain edifices to the divine power of music, but the 'concord of sweet sounds' is radically and essentially different from the angry passions. Harmony is attractive! Discord is destructive!" In another place, our author observes, that "as the nature of a seed is best discovered by its developement into an herb, shrub, or tree, so the principles of government are best understood, when they are contemplated in their action, effect, and full expansion."

We wish the subject of this memoir had been always as harmlessly or rather as usefully employed: but truth obliges us reluctantly to declare, that he was, both before and after this period, actively engaged in writing tracts in defence of the slave-trade! A committee formed for the express purpose of supporting this infamous traffic, actually met in the city, and holding forth *golden temptations* to needy men of letters, unfortunately prevailed on multitudes to advocate their cause. The *res angusta domi* can be alone pleaded in mitigation, and the author of this biographical sketch, who remonstrated with the doctor on the occasion, has reason to think that he was at length heartily ashamed of this part of his conduct.

It would be uncandid to dwell on this portion of his life; it would be unjust wholly to omit the mention of it! We now recur, with heartfelt satisfaction, to another production, dictated by the purest humanity. An old highland serjeant, of the name of Macleod, was accustomed to leave his native mountains every year, and, after traversing a large part of Scotland and England, regularly appeared in the metropolis for the express purpose of receiving his pension at Chelsea Hospital in person. His muscular powers, his brawny make, his broad chest, his Gaelic dress, and his ability of still wielding the broad sword both with vigour and address, attracted the notice of every beholder, and more especially as he really was, or



pretended to be an *octogenarian*. To interest the public at large, the doctor kindly undertook to write his life; which was accordingly performed, being accompanied by an engraved print of the veteran himself. This, together with his visits to all Scotchmen of any note, and not a few distinguished Englishmen also, procured a considerable sum of money, although it was then generally believed, that he was a much younger man than he affected to be. But no one can blame the doctor even if he was imposed upon by his countryman, on the score of seniority. Without reaping any advantage to himself, he generously patronised a man confessedly aged, and by a few rapid strokes of his productive pen enabled "auld Donald," who had actually fought the battles of his country for more than half a century, to return to his native glen, enriched, contented, and grateful!

We have already alluded to the doctor's connection with a very respectable bookseller in St. Paul's Churchyard, sometime deceased; it now remains to be mentioned, that this extended further than the coalition between the English and Analytical Review, as will be perceived from the following narrative. John Gabriel Stedman, a native of Scotland, where he was born in 1745, had entered, as it was formerly the custom with many of his countrymen, into the military service of the states of Holland. Having been dispatched to one of the Dutch colonies, on the continent of America, he acted for some time as captain in a detachment employed against the revolted negroes, with a Swiss for his commanding officer. After undergoing an infinite number of hardships and fatigues, he repaired to England, either with the acquired or assumed *brevet* rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, which he had assuredly merited, by long and desperate service. He was accustomed, like Othello, to talk of his numerous adventures by "flood and field;" to produce the astonishment of his listening auditors, by his many "hair-breadth 'scapes;" while he excited a temporary horror by describing a new game of nine-pins, in which the bowls consisted of the bleeding heads of insurgent Africans, newly severed from their bodies by the

cutlasses of his followers ! Being desirous to publish a book on this subject, under his own name, accompanied with prints from some admirable drawings in his possession, made and coloured on the spot ; it became necessary to furnish him with assistance. And we have been told, that Mr. Johnson applied for that purpose to the doctor, who on this occasion acted the important part of *literary dry-nurse* to the American bantling. Accordingly, with a celerity unequalled, perhaps, on the part of any other man, appeared a “ Narrative of an Expedition against the revolted Negroes of Surinam,” in 2 vols. 4to. with *plates*. This work, containing a variety of military transactions, on a narrow and confined scale indeed, but accompanied by a number of circumstances tending to render it interesting, was read with great avidity at the time, and passed through a second, and perhaps a third edition. It was creditable to the editor ; and must have been profitable to all parties. With this respectable publisher, who, under a serious, and even severe countenance and deportment, concealed an excellent heart, we never heard that he had any dispute ; but he was not unfrequently engaged in altercations of this kind ; for a coolness took place between him and Mr. Murray, in consequence of the transfer of the English Review ; he waged an immortal war with Mr. Hamilton, the printer, about the Critical ; while he commenced a lawsuit with Mr. Robinson of Paternoster-row concerning copyright, &c. &c. Mr. Murray, who had been originally an officer of Marines, was accustomed, like Dilly and Johnson, to give weekly dinners to literary men ; and, although become a tradesman, was not wholly guided by interest on these occasions ; for he loved society, was capable of a generous action, and greatly delighted in the company of his countrymen, the Drs. Gilbert Stuart, Grant, and William Thomson. Mr. Hamilton was accustomed to make ludicrous charges against the subject of this memoir ; viz. “ that he sometimes wrote books in his own name, but oftener in that of other men.” This might produce a laugh, but it contained no serious accusation ; and it must be recollected that Dr. Johnson, with all his literary pride and moral

feelings, did not disdain to do the same. Mr. Robinson was a shrewd, able man, who was then at the head of a most respectable house in Paternoster-Row, and the largest publisher at that time, perhaps in Great Britain.

Of school-books, now so fruitful and profitable as a commercial speculation, we cannot recollect the name of one attributed to the Doctor, unless "the continuâtion of Goldsmith's History of Greece, from Alexander the Great to the sacking of Constantinople by the Turks," may be included within this description. As a translator, on the other hand, he often appeared before the public, and was on these, as well as many other occasions, constantly noticed, although, as may be easily guessed, not severely animadverted upon, by his own periodical journals, which proved an admirable vehicle for the dissemination as well as review of his works. With the French language he was pretty well acquainted, and transposed the text into his own vernacular tongue, with considerable ease and facility. But such was his zeal and eagerness, that he would have undertaken a version from the Hebrew or Persian; and had he but become master of a few leading facts, so great was his ability, at one period of his life, that he would have used these as his texts, for very able and animated disquisitions, either in or after the style, manner, and sentiments of the original author.

He translated Acerbi's travels to the North Pole, during that gentleman's residence in England; and it can scarcely be doubted, such was his desire of employment, that he either learned Italian expressly for the purpose, or recurred to the dictionary, not only during every page, but almost every line.

Towards the latter end of his life, the Doctor was chiefly employed in bringing up the long *arrear* of Dodsley's Annual Register. Of this employment he was not a little proud, as he now considered himself the legitimate successor of Edmund Burke. We understand that he compiled the historical part, from 1790 to 1800, inclusive; and if paid as liberally as the Right Honourable gentleman just alluded to, his remuneration

would have exactly amounted to 3000*l.* for ten volumes; we have reason to think however, that eleven or twelve were undertaken and completed by him.

On this occasion he was lucky enough to obtain the patronage, and if we mistake not, access to the library of Sir John Macpherson, late Governor-General of Bengal; from whose extensive collection of papers, as well as personal communications, he was enabled to derive much useful and interesting information relative to British India.

Meanwhile, his family was now growing up towards maturity, and it became necessary to endeavour to obtain some permanent provision for them. William, his second son, being a boy of an adventurous spirit, at an early period of life, embraced the nautical profession, and repaired to the East. Thither also two daughters were sent, one to Bombay, and the other to Bengal, where they both married well, and one most advantageously. On this occasion the worthy and munificent baronet just alluded to, interposed with his wonted generosity; he recommended both of these young ladies in the kindest and most affectionate manner, the elder to his friend the late Governor Duncan, the younger to several of his correspondents in India. In consequence of this respectable introduction, their reception was favourable, and their success complete. A third daughter a little before this had settled in Scotland.

Towards the conclusion of his life, Dr. Thomson had but little to do with the English press. He had written upon all subjects, and seemed to be fairly exhausted; in short he resembled a field, which the necessities of the farmer obliges him constantly to crop with wheat; and the consequence may be easily and readily foreseen, in respect to both. Perhaps too, it was improvident in him to retire to such a distance from the centre of action; for he had taken a house at Kensington Gravel Pits, which although in the immediate vicinity of the metropolis, is far too distant either to be included within the circuit of a Printer's Devil, or to keep up a regular and constant communication with Paternoster-Row.

Notwithstanding these manifold disadvantages while there, he undertook and executed a work, which tends to confirm what has been already said, as to the variety of his powers, and the extent of his acquisitions. About the year 1805, he commenced, and in 1806 completed, *Memoirs relative to Military Tactics*, admirably adapted to the warlike genius of that day. It was dedicated, with great propriety, to His Royal Highness the Duke of York, then, as now, Commander in Chief of the Forces; and if we are not greatly misinformed, has been used as a text book at High Wycombe, the senior department of the Military College. On this occasion he recurred to the ancient mode of warfare; and the hero of Carthage occupied a respectable place in his dissertations, on account of the science displayed in his various engagements. A preface was added by the late Mr. Glennie, F.R.S. who had studied divinity along with him at St. Andrew's, and is said to have been one of the ablest mathematicians of the present age; in which he ably demonstrated the mistakes that had been made, relative to the battles of Hannibal. We believe, that this was the last work of any eminence achieved by our author; although there is reason to suppose that he has left several manuscripts, chiefly dedicated to metaphysical enquiries. It was in the calm and obscure retreat alluded to above, that Dr. William Thomson passed the evening of his days, provided indeed with but a slender and inadequate income; yet exempt from want, and luckily devoid of care. With a mind no longer distracted by proofs, revises, contracts, sales, or calculations, equally at ease from the clamour of Printers, the remonstrances of Booksellers, and the threats of Lawyers, he concentrated all his happiness within the bosom of his family. After lamenting the loss of his two lovely daughters, who had died in the East, his last days were honourably, usefully, and gratefully employed, in the education of his grandchildren, until overtaken by Death, on the 16th of March, 1817.

Thus died in the 71st year of his age, William Thomson, LL. D., the most active, laborious, and indefatigable man

of letters that has appeared in the present reign, and who, if he could not say like Magliabecchi, "that he had composed seven volumes in folio with a single pen," yet might boast that he had written on a greater variety of subjects than any of his own contemporaries. As a tourist, he had travelled over England, Scotland and Ireland; as a novelist, he had ascended to the moon, and pierced to the wilds of Africa; while as a warrior, he had fought at Saguntum, and Cannæ. Both Asia and America had come within the wide grasp of his studies and reflections. Memoirs and biography were for some years his daily occupation; while the criticism of his own and other men's labours, produced more perhaps, than the fee-simple of his original works. So familiar was he in respect to the events of the times in which he lived, that he was constantly employed in detailing the speeches, or arranging the transactions, or writing eulogiums for, or sounding the death-knell of the reputation of his friends, contemporaries, rivals, and enemies.

In respect to his person, although not tall, he was strong, muscular, and athletic. His complexion was dark; his manner energetic; and when young he must have been very powerful. At a former period, his personal intrepidity exposed him to many dangers, both by night and day. Like Hercules of old, he wished to clear the world of monsters; and he would attack any one when he deemed himself aggrieved. At midnight he was accustomed to return through a long and dreary road to his little mansion at the back of Kensington Gardens, and when nearly at the age of seventy he was seen by the author of this narrative to brandish his *large oaken stick* at a nobleman's coachman, who, through negligence, endangered his life at Hyde-Park corner, while walking towards the gravel-pits.

In his nature he was rather irascible, and not altogether forgetful of either real or supposed offences: it was at one time in his power indeed, from a thousand unexpected sources to assail and perhaps overwhelm a literary character; and one gentleman who had declined his acquaintance, during fifteen years felt the smarts of his vengeance. But instead of resenting this

conduct, no sooner did he hear that the Doctor's finances were deranged, than by means of a respectable clergyman of the church of England, who concealed his interposition, he procured him an offer of assistance on the part of that most excellent institution, the Literary Fund. His manly answer on that occasion merits to be recorded: "I am only in some temporary difficulties; and will accept of no relief."

Notwithstanding his manners, like his dress, were rather rough, original, and unpolished, yet Doctor Thomson is said to have understood, and frequently exhibited a great delight in and attachment to music. His hospitality was so great as not unfrequently to exceed his means: he was fond of company indeed; and at one period of his life, accustomed to indulge in late hours and the jollity of tavern suppers. In respect to religion, he constantly inculcated and asserted the Christian code to be a most powerful, useful, and advantageous instrument, both in respect to states and individuals. In his social hours he was gay, noisy, and argumentative; and possessed a fund of broad humour that not unfrequently set the "table in a roar," more especially on the part of his countrymen who alone fully comprehended him; for his accent, pronunciation, and dialect, not seldom rendered him obscure to strangers.

As an author, it has been justly said of him, "that he united great vigour of invention, great depth of observation, and great eloquence of expression, with remarkable negligence of composition;" and it is happily added, "that he could be romantic without extravagance, and eccentric without absurdity."

The Doctor was twice married, and had children on both occasions. His first wife, Diana Miltone, was a Scotchwoman; his second, who still survives, educated her family with exemplary prudence and propriety: like her husband too she proved an author; and her novels\* may be read without fear

\* The following have been attributed to the pen of this Lady.

1. The Labyrinth of Life; 2. Excessive Sensibility; 3. Fatal Follies; and 4. The Pride of Ancestry.

on the part of young women, which is no small commendation during the present age.

*List of the Works written, edited by, or attributed to the late  
Dr. William Thomson.*

*History.*

1. Continuation and conclusion of Dr. Watson's History of Philip III.
2. Translation from the Latin of "Cunningham's History of Great Britain, from the Revolution to the accession of the House of Brunswick, in the person of George I."
3. New Edition and Continuation of Goldsmith's History of ancient Greece, the whole concluded in 2 vols. 8vo.

*Biography.*

4. Life of Serjeant Macleod.

*Voyages, Travels, and Memoirs.*

5. Travels in Europe, Asia, and Africa, 8vo. 1782.
6. Newte's Travels through Scotland, 8vo.
7. Travels into Norway, Denmark, and Sweden, 8vo. 1792.
8. Buchanan's Travels in the Hebrides. 8vo. 1793.
9. Memoirs of the war in Asia, from 1780 to 1784.
10. Stedman's Narrative relative to Surinam, 4to. with plates.
11. Acerbi's Travels to the North Cape, translated from the Italian.
12. Military Memoirs, 2d Edition, 8vo. 1806.

*Miscellaneous.*

13. Commentary on the Bible, by the Reverend Mr. Harrison.



14. Appeal to the People of England, in Behalf of Warren Hastings, Esq., late Governor-General of India.
15. Introduction to the Trial of Mr. Hastings.

*Novels and Romances.*

16. Man in the Moon, 2 vols. 12mo. 1782.
17. Mammoth, or Human Nature displayed on a grand scale, in a Tour, with the Tinkers or Gypsies, to the central parts of Africa, 2 vols. 8vo. 1789.

*Pamphlets and Periodical Publications.*

18. Several Tracts in Defence of the Slave Trade.
19. English, Critical, and Analytical Reviews.
20. Annual Registers.
21. The weekly summary of News for the Whitehall Evening Post, for several years.
22. Reports of Debates for, and Dissertations, &c., in several of the daily Newspapers.
23. Papers in the Political Herald, under the signature of Ignotus.

No. V.



## HUGH DUKE AND EARL OF NORTHUMBERLAND.

LORD LIEUTENANT, AND CUSTOS ROTULORUM OF THE COUNTY OF NORTHUMBERLAND, VICE ADMIRAL OF THE SAME; ONE OF THE LORDS OF HIS MAJESTY'S MOST HONOURABLE PRIVY COUNCIL; K.G. F.R.S. F.S.A.; A GENERAL IN THE ARMY, AND CONSTABLE OF LAUNCESTON CASTLE.

“ ESPERANCE EN DIEU.” — *Mot.*

IT would be equally vain and ridiculous, to enter into a laboured detail of the genealogy of this good, amiable, and illustrious nobleman. By the paternal side, his Grace derives his origin from the Smithsons, or *Smythsons*, a family so ancient, as to possess a lordship of the same name, in the county of York, at the time of the Norman conquest. Indeed, according to the testimony of one of our most respectable heralds, who had access to the family papers, he claims the same

lineage as the Veres, Earls of Oxford; the Beauchamps, Earls of Warwick; the Mortimers, Earls of March; and is also descended from the great families of Percy and Neville; and even from the blood royal, through the princely House of York. \* As to the maternal stock, the Percies are readily traced from the ancient kings of France and England, and the Seymours, from Mary Queen Dowager of France, younger daughter of Henry VII. by his Queen Elizabeth, daughter and heir of King Edward IV. in whom were united the two royal Houses of York and Lancaster.

Hugh, the elder son of the first Duke of Northumberland, by his consort Elizabeth, only daughter of the great Duke of Somerset; was born, August 14, 1742, in the parish of St. George, Hanover Square. After receiving a suitable education, he was introduced to the world as Earl Percy; and as his early inclinations pointed towards a military life, his lordship was at length gratified, even in this wish, although doubtless with much reluctance on the part of his parents. He accordingly obtained a commission in the army, while yet a boy, and actually served with great credit, for a whole campaign in Germany, during the seven years' war, under the auspices of Prince Ferdinand, then supposed to be one of the ablest commanders of his age.

Nor did this young nobleman fail to display his spirit and indignation at home, when the honour of his family appeared to be called in question. The government of Tynmouth fort had been usually disposed of in a manner agreeably to the wishes of the Duke of Northumberland, in return for the very handsome manner in which a portion of the adjacent ground had been transferred, for the accommodation of the garrison. On an expected vacancy, his Grace applied to His Majesty *in person*, to confer this appointment on his eldest son; and the royal promise was supposed to have been given on that occasion. On the death of Sir Andrew Agnew, in 1771, an application was accordingly made to Lord North,

\* See Collins' Peerage, vol. ii. p. 476.

intimating, in the most delicate manner, the promise that had been made; but that minister replied, in a very laconic epistle, "that it was totally unnecessary to remind him of any previous engagement, as the government of Tynmouth fort was already disposed of to the Hon. Major-General Alexander Mackay." Such an affront was not likely to pass with impunity on the part of a Percy; and the earl accordingly transmitted a spirited rejoinder, purporting, "that he had received his lordship's letter with an equal degree of concern and indignation; for whatever his opinion of the present ministers might be, he had always looked upon the great Person's own word to be sacred, until that moment."

But notwithstanding this insult, Lord Percy never failed for a single moment, to exhibit both his accustomed loyalty to the King, and his warm attachment to what he deemed, the best interests of his native country. Accordingly, at the commencement of the war with America, in the course of which the Trans-Atlantic colonies successfully resisted all claims of taxation on the part of the parent state, his lordship made a tender of his services to government. These being readily and joyfully accepted, he instantly repaired to the scene of action, and took an active part in most of the military operations of that day.

At the battle of Lexington, fought on the 19th of April 1775, his lordship, with a body of British troops, came very opportunely to the succour of a detachment under Colonel Smith, who had not only advanced further than was expected, but had actually expended all his ammunition. General Gage, in his official dispatch, afterwards published in the London Gazette, observes, "that too much praise cannot be given to Lord Percy, for his remarkable activity, during the whole day." This nobleman was also present at the spirited action at Bunker's Hill, and distinguished himself, not only then, but afterwards essentially contributed to the reduction of Fort Washington: the column headed by him, was the first that entered the enemy's lines.

Meanwhile his illustrious mother, who had distinguished

herself, not only by a princely demeanour suitable to her exalted rank, but also by a munificent encouragement of literature and the fine arts, died on her birth day, December 5th, 1776, precisely at the time her Grace had completed the 70th year of her age. On this, the subject of the present memoir, who was still abroad in the service of his country, succeeded to the baronies of Percy, Lucy, Poynings, Fitz-Poyne, Bryan, and Latimer. His lordship did not, however, take his seat in the House of Lords, until November 20, 1777, on his arrival from America, which he had quitted at the end of the campaign of that year.

Earl Percy was received with open arms by all the ministers. So much promptitude and gallantry on the part of a distinguished nobleman had excited their admiration; and accordingly, we find him soon after appointed Colonel of the fifth regiment of foot, with the rank of Lieutenant-General in the army.

But by this time all the airy speculations about subjugation, conquest, and unconditional submission had evaporated, and the more sober part of the cabinet, began to talk of peace and conciliation. On that occasion, Earl Percy was considered, from the moderation of his principles, his knowledge of America, and his high rank, as well as high character, to be eminently calculated for the office of chief Commissioner, or rather Ambassador Plenipotentiary, now proposed to be sent to the insurgent colonies. His family and friends, on this proposal, disavowed all ideas of emolument, but they wished to stipulate for the *Garter*, as a necessary appendage to the embassy, more especially as there were no fewer than three blue ribbands vacant at that very moment.\* To this proposition, it was replied, "that his lordship might depend upon it, on his return." But his lordship had not as yet forgotten the *pledge* given him in respect to the government of Sir Andrew Agnew; and he is said to have stated, "that being too well acquainted with courts, to trust to promises; if he could not have the garter before embarkation, he must decline going."

\* By the death of the Duke of Kingston, and the Earls of Albermarle and Chester.

The present Earl of Carlisle, then a very young man, was afterwards placed at the head of a commission for the same purpose. He was honoured on that occasion, we believe, with the garter, as he doubtless deemed it indispensable, and preferred the possession to the prospect ! with the result of that embassy, the public is well acquainted.

Devoid of ambition, and anxious only to be useful, Earl Percy now addicted himself to the pleasures of domestic society, and the cares incident to his station. At the age of twenty-one, July 2, 1764, his lordship had been persuaded to form an alliance with one of the noblest and most ancient families in the United Kingdom, having married Lady Anne Stuart, third daughter of John Earl of Bute, then the favourite and prime minister of his present Majesty. But this connexion, however desirable it might have been in other respects, proved unfortunate ; and it was at length finally dissolved by act of parliament, in March, 1779. Soon after, and under far more propitious auspices, this nobleman formed a new alliance with Miss Frances-Julia Burrel, sister to Sir Peter Burrel, Bart. now Lord Gwydir, and officiating Great Chamberlain of England, in consequence of his marriage with Priscilla-Barbara-Elizabeth Lindsey, Baroness d'Eresby, eldest daughter of Peregrine, third Duke of Ancaster. The leading motive to this union was of no vulgar kind : it originated in that species of attachment from a child to a parent, which the Romans honoured with the name of *Piety*. In the year 1773, the father of the present Duchess Dowager, of Northumberland, was advised to repair to Spa, for the benefit of his health. His affectionate daughters, dreading to trust the life of one so justly dear to them all, to mercenary hands, resolved to accompany him thither ; and carefully secluding themselves from the society of the gay and fascinating company who had assembled there, devoted the whole of their time and attention to the pleasing task of fanning the last vital spark of a life so highly prized ! Their exemplary attention to the honour of our age and country, produced a general admiration and esteem ; and finally led to three of the noblest matrimonial

connexions that either England or Scotland could produce: for the one became the Countess of Percy; a second, after being for some time Duchess of Hamilton, was afterwards more happy as Marchioness of Exeter; while the third was selected for the wife of the Earl of Beverley. May similar conduct be ever rewarded with equal success!

In the year 1785 Lord Percy was greeted with a son and heir who afterwards inherited all his honours; and on June the 6th, 1786, he succeeded his father as Duke of Northumberland. In due time, he assumed his seat in the House of Lords: and afterwards obtained the Garter. Until this period he had represented, without intrigue and without solicitation, the city of Westminster in Parliament.

The first Duke had generally voted with the Court: and indeed held a variety of splendid offices both in England and Ireland.\* The second intermeddled but little in politics: he however had surveyed America with the eye of a statesman as well as of a soldier, and could not heartily approve either of that war, or of Lord North's administration, although he had been induced by a nice sense of honour to draw his sword in behalf of the one, and thus in some measure, incidentally contributed to support and countenance the other.

Nor was his Grace disposed to yield a servile obedience to all the measures sanctioned and enforced by the splendid eloquence of Mr. Pitt. We accordingly find both him and his friends frequently joining in opposition to the Ministers.

Retired within the bosom of a happy family, the Duke now occupied his leisure for the benefit of his children and posterity. As his noble father had been unable perhaps to extend his cares to every portion of such an immense property, the farm-houses on the great northern estate, were immediately repaired and rendered comfortable. Alnwick Castle, which the former had restored was now beautified and improved. Nor-

\* His Grace was some time Viceroy in one island, and Master of the horse to the King, &c. &c. in another.

thumberland-house, a residence superior to any hotel in Paris, in point of size, arrangement, and magnificence, was rendered far more convenient and noble ; while Sion, the most enchanting villa in our island, finely situate on the banks of its noblest river, and connected with our history by so many interesting recollections, was kept up in a style worthy of its owner. The writer of this article beheld the scaffolding for a new and capital repair, still standing at the time of his Grace's lamented demise.

Nor were meliorations of another kind forgotten. In an age, happily devoted to the advancement of agriculture, Hugh Duke of Northumberland, was not wanting in his duties. The rural economy of his estates was greatly facilitated, improved, and encouraged, under such auspices ; and the farmer, in consequence of a moderate rental and a secure tenure, was now taught to consider the interests of the lord intimately connected with those of the occupier of the soil. Such parts of his domain as seemed interdicted by nature from the labours of the plough, were planted with trees of various kinds, properly protected and fenced. The desert began to smile under such fostering care ; and the heath-clad hills, studded with large and numerous enclosures of evergreens, and deciduous plants, slowly improved both the climate and the soil ; while it rendered the scenery at once more beautiful and romantic.

Nor were minor objects forgotten ; — those that connect man in his last stage of dependence, to society, and render the latter days of the labourer happier and more comfortable — for his Grace set a noble example of this kind, by the introduction of a most admirable, humane, and beneficial custom : that of making a provision for the men servants on such of his large farms as had merited it by their industry and fidelity. To these who are distinguished by the appellation of *hinds* in the north, provided their conduct had been meritorious, his Grace was pleased to allow a cottage and ten acres of land. This operated as a premium to virtue : for it proved an allurement to labour during youth, while it served as a security



against want, when the period of old age and infirmities arrived.

Unfortunately, the Duke of Northumberland was himself subjected, and that too from an early age, to many of the ills to which frail mortality is heir. But the complaint that chiefly annoyed, was the gout, a disease that had long affected the extremities. In consequence of ill health, his Grace was obliged to repair to the continent, more than once; in order to seek for relief in the milder atmosphere of Lisbon. While there, he is said to have been treated with marked distinction, by the reigning family; and when a little re-established, he appears to have constantly returned to his native country with renewed delight.

At Alnwick, the Duke lived with baronial magnificence; and the feudal times, under his castellated roof, seemed to be revived, in all their noble and more congenial accompaniments. It is true, men at arms no longer strutted in his hall; the revelry of a host of noisome retainers was unknown; the herald, with the emblazoned coat, no longer paraded the courts and proclaimed the tournament, where gallant knights contrived to wound each other, to please their gentle dames; or the well-appointed champion entered the listed field finally to decide the cause of the widow and the orphan, by the cunning and strength, or the weakness and unskilfulness of his recreant arm.

But here were to be seen far more gratifying objects: *public days*, on which uninvited guests were received with hospitality and splendour; a banquet over which order, regularity, and grandeur at once presided. To these were occasionally added two sights, truly noble: thousands of the inhabitants of the county of Northumberland voluntarily meeting their good and noble landlord, to congratulate him on his return; while a formidable body of "Percy tenantry," commanded by his son and successor, consisting of infantry, cavalry, and horse-artillery, all accoutred, caparisoned, and paid from the treasury of Alnwick castle, presented a spectacle that could not be paralleled on the part of any other subject in Europe.

At length the infirmities of the Duke of Northumberland, aided and increased by the advance of age, enfeebled a frame already shattered by long and successive attacks, and his Grace at last resigned all share in this mortal world, at Northumberland House, amidst the tears of his surrounding family, the sighs of his sorrowing domestics, the regret of his numerous tenantry, and the respect of all mankind.

Although the second, like the first Duke, had lived with splendour and magnificence, yet by good management, order, and discretion, considerable wealth was accumulated from the surplus of princely revenues for the benefit of his offspring. No one knew how to be more generous when occasion offered: His Grace presented a very large sum of money to Mr. Kemble, at the moment of deep distress, when his whole and entire property seemed to have been ingulphed in the smoking ruins of Drury-lane Theatre; and on the demise of the late Mr. Joseph Richardson, M. P., a man endeared to thousands by his wit and companionable qualities, the head of the Percies, with equal delicacy and promptitude, nobly interposed to shield the widow and the orphan from misery and distress.

The burial was at once grand, solemn, and magnificent in the extreme.

#### *Order of Procession.*

Eight Bannerols, carried by Horsemen.

Horsemen uncovered, bearing a Ducal Coronet on a Crimson

Velvet Cushion, led by two persons uncovered on foot.

Standard of Great Britain, borne by a man on horseback.

Guidon.

Two Horsemen.

Large Banner of the Family Arms and Quarterings, six feet square, borne by a Horseman.

Horsemen.

Helmet and Crest.

Horsemen.

Target and Sword.

Horsemen.

Surcoat.

Horsemen.

### THE BODY

In Hearse, full dressed.

The inside coffin was lined with rich white satin, and the dress of the same, trimmed with fine point lace, &c. The outside case made of English oak, covered with rich crimson Genoa velvet, and finished in the handsomest manner, with stars of the Order of the Garter, coronets, and every appropriate decoration. On the plate are engraved the arms and supporters, with the following inscription:

The Most High Puissant and Most Noble

Prince Hugh Percy,

Duke and Earl of Northumberland, Earl and Baron Percy, Baron Lucy, Poynings, Fitz-Poyne, Bryan, Latimer, and Warkworth, and Baronet, Lord Lieutenant and Custos Rotulorum of the county of Northumberland, and town of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Vice-Admiral of the same and the Maritime Parts thereof, and Knight of the Most Noble Order of the Garter.

Died on the 10th day of July, 1817,

In the 75th year of his age.

No. VI.



GEORGE SPENCER, DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH,  
D.C.L. F.R.S.

MARQUIS OF BLANDFORD, EARL OF SUNDERLAND AND MARLBOROUGH; BARON OF WORMLEIGHTON, AND CHURCHILL OF SANDRIDGE; KNIGHT OF THE MOST NOBLE ORDER OF THE GARTER; LORD LIEUTENANT, AND CUSTOS ROTULORUM OF THE COUNTY OF OXFORD; RANGER OF WHICHWOOD FOREST; HIGH STEWARD OF OXFORD AND WOODSTOCK; GOVERNOR OF THE CHARTER HOUSE; AND A SENIOR BROTHER OF THE TRINITY HOUSE.

“DIEU DEFENDE LE DROIT.” — *Mot.*

IN point of descent, this family is ancient, and in respect to military merit, eminently illustrious. Nor is it deficient as to talents of another kind: for that accomplished poet of the sixteenth century, who was the friend of Sir Philip Sidney, as well as the favourite of Elizabeth, lays claim to be reckoned among its kindred. Gibbon the historian expresses

himself with his usual force and elegance, while treating on this subject: "the nobility of the Spencers has been illustrated and enriched by the trophies of Marlborough; but I exhort them to consider the *Fairy Queen*, as the most noble jewel of their coronet."

This house, according to the genealogical tables of Anderson, may be traced to *Gitto de Leon*, who flourished at the commencement of the eleventh century; and from the testimony of Edmondson, we are taught to believe that Robert Le Despencer, was the progenitor of Sir Robert Spencer, who received the honour of knighthood, from the sword of the maiden Queen. On the accession of her successor, James I. he was ennobled and admitted into favour.

Sir Winstone Churchill, the historian, who for a time lost his estate, on account of his loyalty and adherence to Charles I. was the father of the celebrated John Duke of Marlborough, whose talents are attested by nineteen campaigns; who never fought a battle in which he was defeated, and who never sat down before a town which he did not take. The fame of the British army under his auspices, resounded for the first time on the banks of the Danube, and the Rhine. Notwithstanding he was the ornament both of the court, and the reign of Queen Anne, yet his Grace was taught to feel the caprice of fortune; and indeed he would have withdrawn in 1710, but for a letter signed by Lord Chancellor Cowper, and all the whig lords of that day, soliciting his stay, and deprecating his resignation, which, however, finally took place at a less auspicious period.

By his consort, a daughter and coheir of Richard Jennings, of Sundridge in the county of Herts, this distinguished warrior had one son and four daughters, the former of whom died in his thirteenth year. All the females were matched into noble families. One married Francis Earl of Godolphin, and became afterwards Duchess of Marlborough; another was the wife of the Earl of Sunderland; a third united her fate to Scroop, first Duke of Bridgewater, while the youngest became Duchess of Montague.

Sarah, the mother of these, and sister to the Duchess of Tyrconnel, was one of the most extraordinary women of that or any age. Her Grace, under the veil of a beautiful and feminine countenance, concealed a masculine spirit and understanding. The feeble mind of her sovereign was overawed by the majesty of her demeanor, and the superiority of her genius. Anne was accustomed to correspond with this lady, under the signature of "her poor, unfortunate, faithful Morley," and their intimacy followed by what courtiers are accustomed to term the disgrace "of both her and the Duke," was terminated by the vile arts of a "woman of the bed-chamber," who at once betrayed, and endeavoured to ruin her generous benefactress. The princely present of 5000*l.* to the historian Hooke, the bequests to Mallet and Glover, the patronage of Cragges, and the munificent legacy of 10,000*l.* to William Pitt, the first Earl of Chatham, with a view to enable him to preserve his independence; fully attest the generosity of this great and singular woman.

George, the third Duke of Marlborough, by Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Lord Trevor, was born on January 26, O.S. 1738, now corresponding with February 7. As Marquis of Blandford, and the heir of a rich and powerful family, great pains were taken with his education; and his father, Duke Charles, having a taste for mathematical pursuits, he applied for the selection of a private tutor to Mr. Bliss, at that time Savilian professor of geometry, and astronomer royal, who was frequently a guest at Blenheim. That gentleman immediately recommended Mr. Moore, a young man of his own college. His father is said to have followed the same profession as that of Cardinal Wolsey, and, being a man of merit, after a variety of promotions in the church, he at length died Archbishop of Canterbury.

The young Marquis of Blandford was at first destined for a military life, and commenced his career as an aide-de-camp to his own father, during the campaign of 1758. His lordship afterwards obtained a company in a marching regiment (the 20th foot,) soon after which, he declined the profession.

At the demise of the second Duke at Munster in Westphalia, while commander of the British army, he was in his twentieth year. Being desirous of seeing still more of foreign countries, this young nobleman soon after revisited the continent in company with one of his brothers. In Italy he displayed both his taste and magnificence: At Genoa, then famous for its manufactures, his Grace expended 6000*l.* in velvet, which was afterwards converted into splendid hangings for his town house. Being determined to collect a noble cabinet of *antiques*, Mr. Jennings the celebrated *connoisseur*, who was then also on his travels, informed the writer of this memoir, that he was consulted on this subject. According to him, the sum of 1200*l.* was actually paid for two rare gems at Rome, and two more were bought at Venice, for 300*l.*

The Duke appears to have returned to his native country, in 1759, or 1760, for in the spring of the latter year, the lieutenancy of his county (Oxford) was conferred upon him. On the 25th of August 1762, he married Lady Caroline Russel, daughter of John Duke of Bedford, by whom he has had a numerous issue. At the coronation of George III. this nobleman occupied a distinguished station, having been appointed to carry the sceptre and the cross in the procession. The offices of lord chamberlain, and lord privy seal, were conferred in rotation, and soon after voluntarily resigned: for he was always held in great favour and esteem, by his present Majesty. In 1768, he was decorated with the garter.

His employments and inclinations were of a far different kind from those who revel in the luxury of public exhibition. His Grace loved the shade, and avoided the glare and glitter of courts. To these his good taste taught him to prefer the “bowers of Woodstock.”

Having at one time a passion for the rural pastime of fishing, he conceived the idea of converting a little *ayle*, or ozier-bed, situate in the centre of the Thames, between Windsor and Maidenhead-bridge, into a stately island. This transformation was accordingly achieved by means of chalk, which was brought down in lighters from “Cheelden’s proud retreat;”

and having a range of river, near two miles in extent, immediately after this he built a beautiful little cottage, the hall of which has its ceiling ornamented, at this day, with monkeys in the various characters of fishermen, boatmen, &c. These animals, whence the place was ever after denominated Monkey-Island, were painted with considerable skill and taste by an Italian artist, who according to tradition, on this occasion found means to *caricature* all the principal servants appertaining to the household. A banquetting-room was added; but the latter was afterwards disfigured by a Sheriff of London, of the name of Fludyer, who being perhaps a member of the Fishmongers' Company, disgraced the purity and simplicity of the original style by his bad taste; for, with his golden dolphins, and a variety of gaudy ornaments, he contrived to give a ludicrous air to the whole. In fine, he daubed over a charming apartment with so much leaf gold as to produce an exact imitation of English gingerbread, covered with Dutch copper, at a country fair. Let those who doubt, examine: for the edifice still remains.

The Duke at length began to arrange and augment the collection of gems and intaglios, which he himself had in part selected during his travels. To these he now added the cameos and intaglios of the Arundelian collection. The tasteful and judicious Horace Walpole, afterwards Earl of Orford, pronounces the marriage of Cupid and Psyche, to be "the finest remain of antique sculpture of that kind." His Grace also moved by a noble and munificent taste, determined on this occasion to invoke the assistance of one branch of the fine arts, to embellish and enrich another. When Bartolozzi was employed on this occasion, all agreed on the fitness of the choice; nor was expence spared to render the letter-press, as well as the engravings of these two volumes truly *unique*. The descriptions in vol. i. were executed by Mr. Bryant: while Dr. William Cole, chaplain to his Grace, and tutor to two of his children, composed the Latin expositions of the 2d, in an elegant and appropriate manner. This work was never published; a limited number of copies only were printed; and presented with great liberality to the royal library, a few of the great institutions through-



out Europe, and some of the most distinguished *virtuosi* — Mr. Jemmings, the gentleman already alluded to, and to whose father, Sarah Duchess of Marlborough had bequeathed 20,000*l.* in one of her many wills, was not forgotten on the occasion. Indeed he himself has been a zealous collector, during a long and eventful life; and has parted with many fine acres to gratify his taste in shells, pictures, and statues!

Another and a different but laudable pursuit somewhat before this period, had engaged the attention, and for a time occupied a large portion of his wealth. Blenheim, once a royal residence; and whose modern name recalls the memory of the splendid and unrivalled victory gained by John Duke of Marlborough, had been granted by Queen Anne, as a reward for his unparalleled services. The mansion itself was rapidly falling into a state of dilapidation; and the grounds around it were become rude and uncultivated.

The genius of *capability*—Browne, was now invoked, and a new world speedily created. A noble wall, that cost 1000*l.* a mile, and could not now be built for double that sum, was erected to secure the boundaries of an extensive park; which was speedily converted into an ornamented farm, producing not only grass but corn; while deer and cattle of all sorts and descriptions, either calculated to convey an idea of grandeur, or utility, were seen wandering about its pastures. The gardens too, were laid out anew; and both these and the adjacent country rendered accessible by the finest walks, kept in the neatest order that ever my eyes have beheld. The home view had hitherto been grossly deficient in point of water, without which neither grandeur nor true beauty can possibly exist; but as if by magic, for the hand of a great master may lay claim to something approximating to enchantment—the scene was suddenly changed, and the bridge of the Rialto, which had hitherto crossed a dry ditch, now beheld a river flowing beneath its lofty arch. The valley was also flooded, and the Glyme taught to pour forth its living waters into a lake extending over two or three hundred acres. Bays and ports, and roadsteads and harbours, now seemed to terminate

the curves of this noble expanse; while a little fleet masted, rigged, and fitted out, so as to resemble a navy, floated on its glassy bosom. It was thus, that the late Duke of Marlborough for many years employed both his wealth and his leisure. Nor ought it to be forgotten, that Blenheim itself, under his auspices, assumed an aspect at once more magnificent and more comfortable. The principal apartments were new hung and new furnished; the noble hall was re-embellished; the beautiful little chapel was rendered more worthy of the Deity there worshipped; while the grand and extensive library was adorned with an invaluable unique bust, still in high preservation. The present Duke, who is said to possess a fine taste for books, will not fail to keep up and augment this princely collection.

It has already been stated, that his Grace's father, to whose tutor, the learned Jacob Bryant, he presented a handsome annuity, always evinced a decided taste for mathematics; and the son, from early youth exhibited a predilection for a noble science, which is intimately connected, and indeed regulated by the former. He accordingly ordered an observatory to be constructed and fitted up at Blenheim, which he furnished in a manner worthy of his skill and munificence. Nor were his studies of a selfish kind, for he extended his love of astronomy so as to prove beneficial to the most distinguished of our English youth. Accordingly the Duke presented one of the finest and largest telescopes that could be produced by the most accurate mechanics in Europe — those of the British capital — to the University of Oxford. The grand curtains in the picture gallery are also a donation from him.

Nor was he deficient in respect to the wants of those around him. On the contrary, the Duke extended his bounty to all; and his largesses were commensurate with the wants of the peasantry in that county. He was also a generous contributor to every public charity within the shire, and the inhabitants of the adjacent city, in particular, frequently tasted of his bounty in a variety of ways.

In 1811, the Duchess of Marlborough was snatched from him, after a painful illness of some duration. It was thus

that he lost a consort, with whom he had been united during a period of near forty years. His Grace had purchased a charming house situate on the Steine, at Brighton, chiefly on her account: and they were accustomed, for many years, to repair thither during the autumnal months. Soon after the death of his lady, he parted with that property, which has since become annexed to the Pavilion at Brighton.

Age and infirmities at length began to press heavily; but he still continued to ride out in his carriage, and even on the day antecedent to his demise, the customary exercise was not forgotten; while no symptoms whatever of an approaching dissolution were exhibited. His Grace, however, was found dead next morning in his bed, by the servant accustomed to attend him!

Thus died at the princely mansion of Blenheim, George, third Duke of Marlborough, leaving behind him a high character for the domestic virtues. His Grace was also a sound scholar, and a man of science; in fine, without the aid either of exalted rank or extensive fortune, he would have been respected as a most amiable and accomplished gentleman.

His remains were interred with due funeral honours, amidst those of his ancestors, in the vault below the chapel at Blenheim; on which occasion the present Duke, his eldest son and successor to his honours and estates, attended by Lord Charles and Lord Robert Spencer, Lord Churchill, together with the young Marquis of Blandford, and the Mayor and Corporation of Woodstock, of which he was High Steward, were all present. His Grace, George, the present and fourth Duke of Marlborough, has lately obtained the Prince Regent's permission to adopt the original motto and coat of arms of Churchill; and the House of Churchill now follows that of Spencer.

## No. VII.



## SIR JOHN THOMAS DUCKWORTH.

ADMIRAL OF THE WHITE, KNIGHT-GRAND-CROSS OF THE BATH;  
LATE NAVAL COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF ON THE PLYMOUTH STATION;  
AND A BURGESS FOR THE BOROUGH OF NEW ROMNEY, IN THE  
IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

THE subject of this memoir, like a Hood, a Nelson, and a Bridport, claimed a clergyman of the Church of England for his father, being one of the five sons of the late Rev. Henry Duckworth, Rector of Fulmer in Buckinghamshire. He was born at Leatherhead, in the county of Surrey, on the 28th of February, 1747-8, and his father having four boys besides, and but rather an inadequate provision for so large a family, determined to educate him for the sea-service. Accordingly, early in 1759, when he did not exceed the age of eleven years, young Duckworth found himself strutting along

the quarter-deck of a man of war, with his little square bits of white facings on the cuffs and collar of his coat; together with a sword, or rather a *faulchion*, as the fashion then was, nearly as long as himself.

The precise name of his first ship is now forgotten; but certain it is, that he served in the *Diamond*, then commanded by the Honourable Captain Fielding, at a very early period: yet as preferment was not very rapid at that time, he did not rise to the rank of lieutenant until June 1770; a space of full eleven years. On receiving his commission, he again went to sea, cruised on board of several frigates, and at length deemed himself particularly happy in being appointed to the *Princess Royal* of 98 guns, on board of which, the celebrated Admiral Byron's flag was then flying. In her, he sailed for the West Indies, with a view of threatening the French islands, and interrupting the supplies, by means of which, that nation was then supporting the insurgent Colonies of America, against the mother country.

At length after a very boisterous and stormy passage, they fell in with the fleet, commanded by the Count D'Estaigne, and the heart of every officer on board the English squadron beat high with the expectation of victory and advancement. During this action, which did not prove so decisive as those of modern times, several persons happened to be either killed or wounded in the immediate vicinity of Lieutenant Duckworth's station; and part of the skull and brains of a black man, called Peter Allen, was actually forced against his breast; so that his clothes were bespattered with the blood, and he himself was thought for a while to have been slain.

Notwithstanding the capture of Grenada, and the escape of D'Estaigne, this proved a very fortunate battle for the subject of this narrative, for within a few months after, he was appointed to the *Rover* sloop of war, with the rank of what was then termed "Master and Commander," and is now called "Commander" only: which latter appellation is certainly not only an improvement, but a more honourable as well as appropriate term. This event, however, did not take place, until the 16th of July, 1779.

Being ordered to cruise off Martinico, partly for the purpose of intercepting all supplies, and partly for obtaining intelligence, he “looked” into the harbour of Port Royal daily, and conducted himself in every respect like a faithful, persevering, and intelligent officer. Having obtained the envied rank of Post-Captain on the 16th of June 1780, he returned to the *Princess Royal* soon after, and in that capacity conducted his old ship to Port Royal in the island of Jamaica, and after remaining there until the month of February 1781, he repaired to England in the *Grafton* of 74 guns, being charged with a valuable convoy, chiefly laden with sugar.

Having before distinguished himself for his valour against the enemy, Captain Duckworth now obtained a high reputation by his humanity towards his own crew. During the homeward passage, which was both difficult and tempestuous, with a sickly ship, and many invalids on board, he determined to make every possible sacrifice for their recovery. Accordingly, he was accustomed to send all his fresh meat and wine to those on the sick list, while his own table was supplied with salt provisions, of exactly the same kind and quality as those served to the men. If any thing of a different description was introduced, he refused to partake of it, until those pointed out by the surgeon’s return, had been first supplied. A similar conduct ought to be earnestly recommended to all young officers; as for the veterans of the British navy, such an example is doubtless unnecessary.

Meanwhile the subject of this memoir had become a married man, and the father of a family. During the summer of 1770, he chose for his wife, Anne, only child and heir of John Wallis, Esq., of Camelford, in Cornwall; and by this lady he soon had a son and daughter, both of whom will be mentioned hereafter.

After his ship had been paid off, Captain Duckworth remained during a considerable time with his family, without much prospect of employment, as the American contest had now ceased. A long and dreary interval of peace, for such it was deemed by both naval and military men, ensued. A very

considerable number of half-pay officers found it prudent, either to search for cheap quarters at home, or go abroad for the purposes of economy. They began to be terrified at the prospect of the cessation of hostilities for many a-day to come, and almost thought themselves injured by the declarations of some, equally high in the confidence of his Majesty and the public, who had taken on themselves to pronounce "that they had never seen a fairer prospect of continued tranquillity."

After the lapse of a few short years, however, the preparations in the various harbours, dock-yards, and arsenals, throughout the kingdom, plainly indicated a sudden change. Accordingly, in 1793, a long, sanguinary, and expensive war with France took place, in the course of which, notwithstanding the late decisive victory under Rodney, our naval superiority became infinitely more apparent to all Europe, than during that contest which had the enfranchisement and independence of the American Colonies on one hand, and their subjection and punishment on the other, for their sole and avowed object.

On this occasion, no one meritorious person, educated for the naval service, was forgotten; and Captain Duckworth among the rest, was immediately selected for employment. This gallant and humane officer was accordingly appointed, first to the *Orion* of 74 guns, and then to the *Queen*, the latter of which formed part of the Channel fleet.

Lord Howe being determined to bring the enemy as soon as possible to action, cruised in the Channel during the remainder of the summer, in vain; but the French did not deem it prudent to leave their ports; and it was not until 1794, that the Brest fleet put to sea, and that only for the express purpose of protecting a fleet laden with corn; the pressure of want throughout France being so great, that the party then in power, determined rather to risk a defeat than to be exposed to a famine.

The spirited veteran just alluded to, issued orders to leave *St. Helen's*, on the 2d of May; and the naval campaign of 1794, was opened by a very brilliant and glorious action. On

reaching the Lizard, Rear-Admiral Montague was detached with his flag-ship, and a small squadron to escort the India convoy; and the rival fleets, at length, came in full view of each other at eight o'clock in the morning of May 28, 1794. During the first and second days' action, nothing decisive occurred; but on the third, a great and eventful victory was achieved, highly honourable to the British arms.

The *Orion*, of 74 guns, commanded by Captain Duckworth, happened to be the third ship on the larboard division, and acquired, at least, her own due portion of renown. On perceiving that the *Valiant*, of 74 guns, under Captain Pringle, was raked by two of the enemy's ships, the commander of the former gallantly interposed to cover her from their fire, in consequence of which she not only lost her maintop-mast, but suffered considerably in her rigging. But the paragraph from Lord Howe's official dispatch\*, pointing out the eighteen officers who chiefly distinguished themselves on that day, will prove the best eulogium that can be paid to the memory of the subject of this memoir. He was indeed one of the eighteen who, in consequence of this report, were decorated with gold chains and medals. After this he repaired to the West Indies, and had a broad pennant for some time at St. Domingo.

But it was not only by Earl Howe, but also by Earl St. Vincent, that Capt. Duckworth was honoured, confided in, and esteemed. In 1798, while in the Mediterranean, on board the *Leviathan*, of 74 guns, he was selected for a separate command by the second of these Admirals, and was employed in a very hazardous and important undertaking. The expedition to which we here allude, was an attack on the island of Minorca, on which occasion his broad pennant was

\* "To discharge this part of my public duty," says Lord Howe, in his supplementary letter to a former account given by him of the action, "reports were called for from flag-officers of the fleet, for supplying the defects of my observance, under the limited circumstances above mentioned.

† Those officers, therefore, who have such particular claim to my attention are, the Admirals Graves and Sir Alexander Hood; the Rear-Admirals Bowyer, Gardner, and Paisley; Captains Lord Hugh Strymour, Pakenham, Berkeley, Gambier, J. Harvey, Payne, Parker, Henry Harvey, Pringle, Duckworth, and Elphinstone," &c.



again flying on board his old ship, with a small but well-chosen squadron under his command. The land forces destined to accomplish this conquest, were confided to the care of the gallant General Sir Charles Stewart, brother to the first Marquis of Bute.

A small detachment of these, to the amount of 800, was accordingly landed under the directions of the Commodore; who not only placed the *Argo* frigate in such a judicious position as to secure its flank and keep a large body of Spaniards at bay; but also effected the debarkation of a reinforcement from his transports, which immediately produced the desired effect. Soon after this, Fort Charles was seized, and the city or town of Mahon summoned; while the boom which obstructed the entrance of the harbour was removed; on which two frigates immediately sailed in\*, and hopes now began to be entertained, for the first time, that this important settlement might actually be taken by a handful of English troops, landed and led on under the auspices of two able and gallant commanders. Accordingly, although grossly deficient in the very essential article of a battering train, by means of three 12-pounders and 3 five and a half-inch howitzers, the enemy was at length\* intimidated into a surrender. After a capitulation had been agreed upon, on the part of the English Commanders-in-Chief, by sea and land, on one hand, and the Spanish Governor on the other, the British flag was immediately hoisted, and Minorca was thus added to the list of British conquests. As this occurred nearly at the same period, that we were obliged to evacuate the fertile and flourishing island of St. Domingo, this acquisition proved both flattering and consolatory.

At the commencement of the year 1799, the gallant subject of this memoir was promoted to the rank of Rear-Admiral, and immediately received orders to repair to the West Indies, as successor to Lord Hugh Seymour. In the mean time, he was fortunate enough to encrease his fortune greatly by the capture of a rich Spanish convoy, consisting of eleven sail of

\* The *Cormorant* and *Aurora*.

merchantmen. His share of the prize-money must have been very considerable.

After remaining some time on the Leeward Island station, the Rear-Admiral was employed in a pleasant, rather than dangerous expedition, against the colonies of certain of the northern powers, who had entered into a new armed neutrality against England. On this occasion the success was complete, as will be seen by the annexed official letter, addressed through Evan Nepean, Esq., their Secretary, to the Lords of the Admiralty.

“ Leviathan, at Sea, March 27, 1801.

“ SIR,

“ Having consulted with Lieutenant-General Trigge, on the subject of the orders of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, we determined not to wait for the expected reinforcements, but collected the troops that the General thought might be employed with dispatch; and we sailed on the 16th with about fifteen hundred troops, for the purpose of attacking the various islands specified in our orders, the General and myself considering it most judicious to commence with the weathermost one, St. Bartholomew, though by calms and very variable winds we were prevented from getting to Grand Saline Bay (our intended place of landing) till the morning of the 20th; when, having prepared every thing for that purpose, and placed the *Andromeda*, *L'Unité*, and *Drake* brig, to cover it, the General and myself deemed it expedient to prevent delay, by sending Brigadier-General Fuller, and Captain King, of the *Leviathan*, with a summons, which after some little hesitation, was accepted, and the capitulation I transmit entered into.

“ I then detached the *Andromeda* with the *Alexandria* tender to assist in watching St. Thomas's, when every exertion was used to land a garrison, and form such temporary arrangements as the urgency of the service would admit; all of which were effected by the morning of the 22d.

“ We found here two Swedish ships nearly laden with produce of this country, a Danish ship in ballast, besides a variety of small craft, Swedish, and three small French vessels; and I left Captain Thomas Harvey, in *L'Unité*, to co-operate with the Commandant of that island; and at ten o'clock A.M. was in the act of weighing, when ten sail were seen from the mast-head; I therefore ordered the *Drake* brig and *L'Eclair* schooner to reconnoitre, keeping the wind myself, concluding they were our troops from England, which the General and myself had sent orders to Barbadoes to follow us after landing their sick, with women, and children: this, from light airs, was not ascertained till ten o'clock at night, when they proved as conjectured; and the *Proselyte* joined in the afternoon of the 24th.

“ Upon this accumulation of force, the General and myself, after some deliberation, judged it would be highly injurious to his Majesty's service, and render St. Bartholomew very unsafe, if we omitted attacking the island of St. Martin; we therefore (though it was not mentioned in our instructions), prompted by the rectitude of our intentions, decided upon endeavouring to reduce it, and at midnight of the 22d bore away for that purpose; but the unprecedented variableness of the winds prevented our getting there till day-light of the 24th; and on the afternoon of the 23d the *Coromandel* joined with the second West India regiment, when, having placed Captain Fowke in the *Proselyte*, with the *Drake* brig, in Cole's Bay, to cover the landing, under the direction of Captain Ekins of the *Amphitrite* (who had been sick at Barbadoes, but joined me in the *Proselyte*, and handsomely volunteered this service), which commenced at half-past eight o'clock; and with his judicious arrangements, the second brigade, of near fifteen hundred men, under Brigadier-General Maitland, were on shore with their field-pieces, and one hundred seamen, by eleven o'clock, as was the first brigade of eighteen hundred, under Brigadier-General Fuller, by two o'clock, with their field-pieces, and one hundred seamen. The second brigade directly proceeded

on to take the heights in the approach to the town of Philipsburgh, which was quickly effected, though not without some smart skirmishing, which afterwards brought on a short action, in which some companies of the 64th, under Lieutenant-Colonel Pakenham, and two companies of the 8th West India regiment, displayed great gallantry, and took two field-pieces. At this time Brigadier-General Fuller, with the first brigade, marched on to take the heights above Fort Chesterfield, or Maregot, where we had reason to expect the greatest resistance; but the former check (in which the enemy lost from fifty to sixty killed and wounded) evinced that opposition could only lead to destruction, and they embraced a verbal summons (sent in by Brigadier-General Maitland, at five o'clock), to propose their terms at nine; when Lieutenant-General Trigge and self being on the spot, the capitulation was signed and exchanged by midnight, of the 24th, of which I transmit a copy for their Lordship's information.

“ At the commencement of the attack we observed in Great Bay, two privateer brigs, of 12 guns each, and a schooner of the same force; with a merchant ship, brig, and nine or ten small craft; and as I considered them likely to attempt getting off in the course of the night, if it was found necessary to surrender, I ordered the *Hornet* and *Fanny* armed brig to work up to Great Bay, to prevent such attempt from succeeding; and at sun-set sent the *Drake* to aid on that service; but, unfortunately, the two first did not get far enough to windward to fulfil my intention, by which means one of the brigs and the schooner got out, with a few small vessels, five of which were taken; but I am to lament the brig and schooner getting away, after a chase of twenty-four hours, by the *Hornet* and *Fanny*. We found remaining in the bay, one brig privateer of twelve guns, an English captured ship, a merchant-brig, four small schooners, and a sloop; the particulars of which my time would not allow me to collect, as I began to embark the troops, ordnance, &c. &c. the next morning, the 25th, and sailed for St. Thomas's the afternoon of the 26th, leaving the *Proselyte*, *Hornet*, and

Drake, to assist in the arrangements necessary for the security of the island, and two transports to embark the garrison in, which consisted of between three and four hundred, besides nearly a similar number which got away in the brig, &c.

“ I have the honour to be, Sir, &c.

“ J. T. DUCKWORTH.”

In consequence of his judicious conduct on this occasion, the Rear-Admiral was created a Knight of the Bath, by his Majesty; and to this was afterwards added, a pension of 1000*l. per annum.*

On the conclusion of hostilities, Sir John Duckworth returned once more to the bosom of his family. A long peace seemed now about to ensue, and all the endearing ties of friendship, kindred, and connexion, appeared ready to replace those of a public nature. The bosom of the husband and the father, was destined to expand at the sight of a beloved wife, and a beautiful offspring; while they in their turn were gratified by the reappearance, and, as it was hoped, the constant residence with them, of the dearest of all earthly objects. But these halcyon presages were of short duration, and fallacious in the extreme. A new war, after the lapse of a very few months, ensued, and Admirals and Generals gladly left the sports of the field, the hospitalities of the table, and the duties attached to a rural life, in order once more to fight the battles of their country.

On this occasion, Sir John Duckworth was instantly selected by the Admiralty for the Jamaica station; and in the spring of 1804, he was included in the new promotions, by means of which he became Vice-Admiral of the Blue. In 1806, we find him cruising off Cadiz; and on learning that the French government had sent a fleet to the West Indies, with a view of succouring the very important colony of St. Domingo, he immediately collected his squadron, and sailed in pursuit of the enemy. After effecting a junction with Rear-Admiral Cochrane, the English fleet steered for St. Domingo. On perceiving the French line, the Superb led the way, with a portrait of the

gallant Admiral Lord Nelson suspended to the mizen-stay, and the band playing the tune of "Nelson and the Nile," while the crew cheered loudly and repeatedly, until ordered to their guns.

This small squadron, conscious of the fate that awaited it, endeavoured to effect its escape; and one small part of it was actually lucky enough to get off, while another, and a larger, consisting of a first rate, with a Rear-Admiral's flag flying, one eighty, and three seventy-four gun ships, fell into the hands of the English. The following official letter, published on this occasion, appeared soon after in the London Gazette:

"Superb, to the leeward of the town of St. Domingue,

"SIR,                      about twelve leagues, Feb. 7, 1806.

"As I feel it highly momentous for his Majesty's service, that the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty should have the earliest information of the movements of the squadron under my command; and as I have no other vessel than the Kingsfisher, that I feel justified in dispatching, I hope neither their lordships, or Vice-Admiral Collingwood, will deem me defective in my duty toward his lordship, by addressing you on the happy event of yesterday; and as you will receive my letter of the 3d instant herewith, I shall only say, I lost not a moment in getting through the Mona Passage; and on the 5th, in the afternoon, was joined by the Magicienne, with a further corroboration from various vessels spoken, of a force of ten sail of the line, with as many frigates and corvettes being in these seas; I therefore continued under easy sail for the night, in my approach off the town of St. Domingue, having giving orders to Captain Dunn, of the Acasto, whose zeal and activity I have experienced for a series of years, to make sail with the Magicienne, Captain Mackenzie, two hours before day-light, to reconnoitre, when, at six o'clock, the Acasto, to our great joy, made the signal for two of the enemy's frigates; and before seven for nine sail at anchor: at half past, that they were getting under weigh: the squadron under my command then in close order, with all sail set, and the Superb,

bearing my flag, leading, and approaching fast, so as to discover before eight that the enemy were in a compact line, under all sail, going before the wind for Cape Nisao, to windward of Ocoa Bay; and as they consisted of only five sail of the line, two frigates, and a corvette (which hereafter will be named), I concluded, from the information I was in possession of, that they were endeavouring to form a junction with their remaining force; and in consequence shaped my course to render abortive such intention, which was completely effected by a little after nine, so as to make an action certain. I therefore telegraphed the squadron, that the principal object of attack would be the Admiral and his seconds, and at three quarters past nine for the ships to take stations for their mutual support, and engage the enemy as they got up, and a few minutes after to engage as close as possible, when, at a short period after ten, the *Superb* closed upon the bow of the *Alexander*, the leading ship, and commenced the action; but after three broadsides she sheered off: the signal was now made for closer action, and we were enabled to attack the Admiral in the *Imperial* (formerly *Le Vengeur*), the fire of which had been heavy on the *Northumberland*, bearing the Honourable Rear-Admiral Cochrane's flag. By this time the movement of the *Alexander* had thrown her among the lee division, which Rear-Admiral Louis happily availed himself of, and the action became general, and continued with great severity till half past eleven; when the French Admiral much shattered, and completely beat, hauled directly for the land, and not being a mile off, at twenty minutes before noon ran on shore; his foremast then only standing, which fell directly on striking: at which time the *Superb* being only in seven fathom water, was forced to haul off to avoid the same evil; but not long after the *Diomedé*, of eighty-four guns, pushed on shore near his Admiral, when all his masts went: and I think it a duty I owe to character and my country, to add, from the information of Sir E. Berry, after she had struck, and the *Agamemnon* desisted from firing into her, from the Captain taking off his hat, and making every token of surrender; and

Captain Dunn assures me both ensign and pendant were down: to comment on which I leave to the world. About fifty minutes after eleven the firing ceased; and on the smoke clearing away I found *Le Brave*, bearing a Commodore's pendant, the *Alexander*, and *Le Jupiter*, in our possession.

"When I contemplate on the result of this action, when five sail of the line had surrendered, or were apparently destroyed in less than two hours, I cannot, though bound to pay every tribute to the noble and gallant efforts of the Honourable Rear-Admiral Cochrane, Rear-Admiral Louis, the Captains, Officers, seamen, and marines, under my command, be vain enough to suppose, that without the aiding hand of Providence such result could have been effected, and with a loss so comparatively small; and though I shall ever sympathise with the connections of those that fell, the reflection on the cause will, I hope, afford much consolation.

"To speak individually to the conduct of any one, would be injurious to all, for all were equally animated with the same zealous ardour in support of their King and country. Yet, possessed of these feelings, I cannot be silent without injustice to the firm and manly support for which I was indebted to Captain Keats, and the effect that the system of discipline and good order in which I found the *Superb* must ever produce; and the pre-eminence of British seamen could never be more highly conspicuous than in this contest.

"After the action, the water being too deep to anchor in the bay of St. Domingue, it was requisite to bring-to with the prizes to repair damages, put the ships in a manageable state, and shift the prisoners, which took me till this afternoon: when I detached the Honourable Captain Stopford in the *Spencer*, with the *Donnegal* and *Atlas*, which latter had lost her bowsprit; with her prizes to Jamaica; and being anxious with Rear-Admiral Cochrane, that he should return to his command, where his services must be wanted, a jury mainmast is fitting to the *Northumberland*, under this island, to enable her to get to windward, when I shall order the *Agamemnon*, which is staying by her, to accompany the Rear-



Admiral to his station; and I am now proceeding with the *Canopus*, Rear Admiral *Louis*, *Acasto*, and *Magicienne*, off *St. Domingue*, to make certain of the *Imperial* and *Diomedé* being completely wrecked, after which I shall repair to *Jamaica*.

“ Having recited the transactions of this glorious combat, which will fairly add another sprig of laurel to our naval history, and assist in promoting our country’s good,

“ I am, Sir, &c.

“ J. T. DUCKWORTH.”

Finding it absolutely necessary to destroy two, out of five sail of the line, the Admiral, by the aid of the trade wind, fell down to leeward with his prizes, and anchored in his old station at *Port Royal*. His reception at *Jamaica* was brilliant in the extreme, and the Assembly, which happened to be then sitting, with its accustomed promptitude voted thanks to this gallant commander for the effectual protection afforded to its commerce and coasts; and at the same time, with its accustomed munificence, ordered the sum of one thousand guineas to be expended in the purchase of a rich sword, with appropriate emblems.

On the arrival of the important intelligence in England, the tower guns were fired, and an unanimous vote of thanks passed both Houses of Parliament. The corporation of London, also, decreed Sir J. Duckworth the freedom of the city, to which was added a sword of the value of 200 guineas.

Having become a Vice-Admiral of the White, in consequence of a new promotion of flag-officers, he was soon after nominated to the command of the *Royal George*, of 110 guns. In 1807, he was detached to the Mediterranean, where he had before served, during some time, under Admiral Lord Collingwood. On this occasion, notwithstanding the narrowness of the strait and the vaunted size of the Turkish guns, he passed the *Dardanelles* without damage; but a variety of

circumstances interposed so as to prevent any thing of consequence being effected,

Having returned to England, in 1810, Sir John was nominated to the Newfoundland station, which he retained during three years. At the end of that period he was appointed to the Plymouth station, and died on the 14th of April, 1817, in the 70th year of his age, leaving behind him the name and reputation of a great, humane, and experienced commander. The last years of his life, were doubtless embittered, by the painful recollection of losing an only son, who had obtained the rank of Colonel in the army, while fighting gallantly under the Duke of Wellington, in Spain. A daughter, some years since, became the wife of Admiral Sir Richard King.

Sir John Duckworth sat in Parliament, for some time, as one of the members for the borough of New Romney, and at the period of his demise, was Commander-in-Chief on the Plymouth station.

No. VIII.



RIGHT HONOURABLE JOHN PHILPOT CURRAN,

LATE MASTER OF THE ROLLS IN IRELAND, AND A MEMBER OF HIS  
MAJESTY'S MOST HONOURABLE PRIVY COUNCIL, &c. &c. &c.

THAT rare and extraordinary talent called ELOQUENCE, has in all ages excited the admiration, and been accompanied by the applause of mankind. In both ancient and modern times, it has produced fame, as well as fortune, to such as have excelled in it; but it is only in free countries, that it is ever cultivated with success.

We are well acquainted with the names of the orators of Greece, of Rome, and of England; but whoever heard of those of Russia, Persia, or Hindostan? And how many ages must elapse, before the banks of the Danube, and the Dwina, the borders of the Arabian gulf, or the shores of the Hellespont shall produce a Cicero, a Demosthenes, or a Chatham?

John Philpot Curran, who is indebted for his rise in life, and all his subsequent celebrity, to eloquence alone, was

a native of Ireland. Indeed, his country appears to have been indelibly engraved on his tongue, as well as in his heart, for it is not a little remarkable, that a peculiar, but not disagreeable *cadence*, was easily distinguishable in his pronunciation, even in the latter part of his life.

Some difficulties occur, in respect to the history of his early years, for his infancy was involved in a gloom of poverty, and obscurity, which a youthful spirit of enterprise luckily contrived to burst through. It is certain, however, that he is indebted for his birth to the province of Munster; and the little obscure town of Newmarket in the county of Cork, lays claim to the honour of having produced him. It appears from the inscription on his coffin, that he was born in 1750, but the occupation of his father\*, and the precise situation of his family remains unknown.

There is reason, however, to suppose, that his parents were protestants; and that his ancestors were emigrants from the north of England, who had been long settled in Ireland. To the former circumstance, perhaps, he owes his education; any claims or pretensions in respect to the latter, he was wholly ignorant of, or too modest ever to disclose. In Scotland, the parochial schools bring instruction home to the door of every cottager; but this is not, and never was the case in Ireland: it is indeed, but of late years, that a system so intimately connected with religion, morals, and general information, has begun to diffuse the blessings of instruction over England. And this too has been attained, not as in the northern portion of the British dominions, by a positive law, and a permanent specific revenue arising out of land; but by voluntary and liberal subscriptions on the part of all orders and denominations of men.

In the sister kingdom, an attempt was made upwards of a century since, by means of PROTESTANT FREE-SCHOOLS, to convey the seeds of instruction to a certain number of the inhabitants, but as this blessing was partial and exclusive,

\* It has since been discovered, that the elder Mr. Curran, was occasionally employed in collecting the rents for a gentleman of small fortune in that neighbourhood.

being confined to a specific denomination of Christians only, the Catholics were of course prohibited from all its benefits. That very circumstance, perhaps, will account for the present unhappy and uncivilized state of Ireland: for in what consists the difference between barbarous and polished nations, but in mind and manners? and both these are closely and evidently connected with instruction.

But be this as it may, the probability is, that as the Currans were poor Protestants, actuated by the commendable ambition of advancing their son John, they contrived to obtain for him all the advantages that could be derived from an institution of this kind. Had he been, what is there termed a Papist, in consequence of a superstitious veneration for the successors of those very orthodox Popes, Julius II. and Alexander VI. the probability is, that as his parents were utterly unable to have afforded the expences of a foreign education, and were denied the advantage of one in their own country, he would have been a little lively peasant, renting half an acre of potatoe-ground, from an avaricious and hard-hearted extortioner, commonly called a *middle man*; and if his constitution, which was always feeble, had not been destroyed by intense labour, and his mind rendered dull and dismal, by servitude, his lively fancy might have made him a "Munster poet," and in this capacity he would, perhaps, have attempted to write verses in the vernacular language of his native province.

Fortunately, however, a better fate awaited young Curran, for he had certainly acquired the rudiments at least of a classical education, before he attempted to obtain an introduction into the University of his native country; and it was in the humble station of a *Sizer* \*, that our aspiring candidate first procured admission to the College of the Holy Trinity.

\* This is said to be a situation in which the emoluments are trivial, while it is accompanied with the most mortifying mark of inferiority. The Sizers have their education, however, free of *expence*, but they are obliged to keep the weekly rolls of the tutors, while on them devolves the arduous task of superintending the weekly distribution of fines, and punishments. At that period they had their commons *gratis*.

Here he is said to have remained during the space of two years, not only undistinguished and unknown, but almost in a state of want. Whether the distresses of that period have been since magnified, in order to form a more direct contrast with his future prosperity, is not exactly known ; but certain it is that at the conclusion of two years he obtained a scholarship. This was a fortunate circumstance, as it raised him a little above actual distress ; and enabled him to look forward with hope and expectation.

The means by which this youth effected a journey to England, and *kept his commons* at one of our Inns of Court, are merely conjectural ; it has been indeed asserted, that at this early and trying period of his life, he maintained himself by the labours of his pen : but we suspect that he was indebted to some source, both more certain and more bounteous.

After a few terms spent in London, he was called to the bar, and was accustomed to travel one of the Irish circuits in search of briefs and business. It was during an excursion of this kind, that he first saw, and formed an acquaintance with Miss Creagh, who soon after became his wife. With that lady, he is not supposed to have received any great acquisition, in point of fortune ; but in consequence of this connection, he soon beheld himself the father of a family of many children.

Immediately after their marriage they took up their residence in Dublin, and there waited for more prosperous times.

It was then, and perhaps still is, the practice in Ireland, for a female to relinquish all the maternal duties ; to entrust her offspring to mercenary hands ; and to banish from her house, and from her presence, the unhappy being to whom she had given life. This unnatural habit prevailed also in France, until Rousseau, in the name of reason and of sensibility, invoking all the fine feelings of the human heart on the side of nature and humanity, thus for ever banished a custom which barbarous nations have always held in just abhorrence. Whether it arose from a due share of affection, or that the means of following this fashionable and prevalent mode were actually wanting, is now difficult to decide ; but certain it is, that Mrs.

Curran, greatly to her credit, discharged all the duties of a nurse and mother herself. It is painful here to add, that some family misunderstanding afterwards occurred; that a court of justice was appealed to; and that a final separation ensued!

We have just alluded to the penury of his means; but it may be proper here to observe, that there was a certain elasticity in Mr. Curran's mind that enabled it to rise and rebound from every shock on the part of adversity. Instead of succumbing to misfortunes, he prepared himself for happier days and more auspicious events. Nor did the playfulness of his imagination, a certain hilarity of mind, and a disposition admirably adapted to social intercourse, even then forsake him. Accordingly about this period we find him a permanent member of a convivial society, formed chiefly of young expectants and unfeed barristers, like himself. To convey an idea of bacchanalian gentility to the institution, the members adopted the fanciful appellation of "Monks of the Screw;" but if report be true, the implement in question was equally unnecessary and unknown at their board: for libations from the purple grape were never offered up on the altars in Cavan-Street, where a spacious apartment, on the second floor, supplied the place of a temple. But if the rosy god, did not preside over their festivals; Ceres was worshipped by them with due solemnity; and the wholesome, yet humble beverage, extracted by our ancestors from the precious juices of *hops and malt*, was eagerly quaffed by her thirsty worshippers. But the strictest temperance is said to have presided at these banquets; no midnight orgies there took place; no expensive entertainments were heard of; legal questions were debated with due solemnity, and even during the precious moments of convivial relaxation, wit flowed in more copious streams than either ale or porter.

Yet at this undignified board, were now met, although unconscious of their future destiny, men afterwards decorated with silk and ermine. Here some of those who entered the lists with a few striplings, equally unknown and unpatronised with them-

selves, were afterwards destined to adorn, first the bar, and afterwards the bench of a Court of Justice; to make the senate of their native country resound with their impassioned oratory; and to pour out torrents of eloquence that awakened the zeal, aroused the patriotism, and called forth the dormant energies of their applauding country. In short, it was here that Curran first fitted on his armour and prepared himself to enter into the future combat in a more profitable and advantageous field of action. It was from this humble *forum* also, that Barry, Lord Yelverton\* emerged, after a long eclipse, and

\* This nobleman, like his early and untitled friend, Mr. Curran, was the immediate architect of his own prosperity; and indeed there exists a considerable degree of similarity in their birth, education, and fortunes.

Mr. Barry Yelverton, is also said to have been born of parents equally poor and obscure. They were both natives of the province of Munster; having been both born at Newmarket, in the county of Cork, where the father of one was a weaver, and that of the other, in circumstances exactly similar.

Both Barry, and John Philpot, were educated in a little country school; they were both sizers in the University of Dublin; and each obtained a scholarship there. They also both studied in England; both married women of little or no fortune; and the one was called to the Irish bar, in 1764, and the other in 1775. Both were poor, and both patriots; and both remained during many years in obscurity. Some time after they had rendered themselves known and distinguished, each stoutly advocated the cause of Ireland; having both individually contended for an increase of legislative privileges; and an entirety of legislative independence on the part of their native country.

But here ends their collateral and equal course. Mr. Yelverton, who first obtained a seat in the Irish Parliament, in 1776, became Attorney-General during the Portland administration, in 1782; at a time when his brother "Knight of the Screw," was only fitting on his new silk gown. During Lord Temple's rule the latter shrunk from notice; he detested the principles by means of which it was intended to rule Ireland; and hazarded, more than once, to be reduced to his original poverty, by the manly boldness and uniformity of his opposition.

On the other hand, Mr. Yelverton, who to his honour, constantly preserved his ancient friendship unbroken, at length assumed a certain pliability of character that soon led the way to greater and more permanent advancement. He now opposed all reform in parliament; was totally silent on the subject of national grievances, and became a violent and declared enemy to the volunteers of Ireland; who assuredly had extorted from England far more than she had ever intended to concede. Nor did the administration of that day prove ungrateful; for in 1784, Barry Yelverton was nominated a Privy Counsellor, and raised to the Irish Bench, having long presided in a high and honourable station in the Court of Exchequer, at a time when Mr. Curran was still an obscure advocate in the King's Bench.

The Chief Baron had now attained one of the two objects of his ambition; and from this moment his zeal became less fiery; and his devotion to Ministers less conspi-



having attained some of the highest professional honours in succession, at length closed his career with a peerage! Unlike Curran, he occasionally veered about in his political career, and thus by trimming his sail to the prevailing gale, found means to steer a more direct course: but to his credit be it recollected, that he continued to respect a friend whose gentle, but undeviating progress presaged a less fortunate conclusion to his labours.

It has been said, indeed, that it was to Chief Baron Yelverton, that the subject of this memoir was wholly indebted for his rise; that it was he who rescued him from unmerited obscurity; and first brought him into notice. But in 1783, after he had attained a seat in the House of Commons, Mr. Curran publicly denied this assertion, which has indeed been frequently repeated both in England and Ireland.\*

cuous. In truth, an *arena* was now wanting, even if these qualities had still existed in all their original fervour; for by his new office he was now excluded from one House of Parliament, while like his contemporary, Scott Baron Earlsfort, he had not been, as yet, admitted to another.

In this situation of affairs, he was all at once aroused from his political apathy, in 1789, by a great event; and became one of those who asserted that Ireland possessed a right to choose her own "Regent." On this occasion, he once more thought and acted with his old friend Mr. Curran. This unexpected opposition to Ministers appears to have actually obtained for him the peerage a few years after: for an union being now in contemplation, it was deemed necessary to *neutralise* a man of such acknowledged influence and talents. Accordingly on June 16, 1795, he was raised to the Irish Peerage by the style and title of Baron Yelverton, of Avonmore, in the county of Cork.

\* On Tuesday, Dec. 16, 1783, during the debate on the question, whether "the House of Commons of Ireland had a right to originate Money Bills?" Mr. Curran spoke as follows:

"I lament that a learned and right honourable member (Mr. Yelverton) with whom I once had the happiness of living on terms of friendship is now absent; because I think I might rely upon his supporting the resolution I intend to propose; that support would perhaps renew the intercourse of our friendship, which has lately been interrupted. And I must beg the indulgence of the House to say, that *this friendship was on the footing of perfect equality*, not imposed by obligation on one side, or bound by gratitude on the other; for I thank God, when that friendship commenced I was above receiving obligation from any man, and therefore our friendship as it was more pure and disinterested, — for it depended on a sympathy of minds, and a congeniality of sentiments. — I trusted would have endured the longer.

As it is now become difficult, after such a lapse of time, to account for the manner in which Mr. Curran was brought forward, recourse must be had to the suggestions of his contemporaries, one of whom has been pleased to express himself in the following manner :

“ When he first came to the bar, this celebrated Irishman is known to have been extremely poor, and to have remained a long while unnoticed and unknown. The attention of the public was first attracted to him, from the following circumstance : —

“ He had been engaged as agent by one of the candidates at a contested election, and in the course of the poll it became necessary for him to make objections to a vote proffered by the adverse party, which he did in that strong and sarcastic manner for which he is remarkable. His antagonist, a man of rude and overbearing manners, *felt* the pungency of his wit; and not immediately recognising the barrister under a shabby coat and a mean appearance, (for nature had not been very favourable in external decorations,) he applied to him some very gross epithets with more spirit, perhaps, than decorum. Mr. Curran leaped from his seat, seized him by the collar, and was prevented only by the interposition of the bye-standers from chastising him on the spot.

“ He, however, was not precluded from asserting his independence in that way which could alone be tolerated in the presence of a magistrate : he therefore, in a few pithy sentences, disclosed his *mind* and his *character*; his antagonist had generosity enough to acknowledge his error, and apologised to Mr. Curran, for the consequences of his mistake; nay, instead of resenting the violence with which he had re-

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“ I think myself bound to make this public declaration, as it has gone forth to the world, that I am a man of ingratitude, and to declare, that for any difference of opinion with my Learned and Right Honourable Friend, I cannot be taxed with ingratitude : for I never received any obligation from him, but lived on a footing of perfect equality, save only as far as his great talents and condition outwent mine.” — *See printed speeches.*

pelled the insult, he granted him his friendship, and by his recommendation and patronage, very essentially promoted his future interests.

“ From that period he began to rise rapidly, and in a few years took his seat in the House of Commons, where he seconded every effort of the popular party for the emancipation of the country, and the establishment of its commercial freedom and political independence. In his parliamentary conduct, he has always been attached to the popular cause. He first represented a borough of Mr. Longford’s.”

Whether this statement be strictly and literally correct, is now difficult to determine. Certain it is, however, that Mr. Curran and his family remained in great obscurity, until the whigs came into power in England, at the close of the American war; on which occasion, the late Duke of Portland was sent over to Ireland, for the purpose of exercising the Vice-regal authority there. It was then his good fortune to attract notice and attention; and he was accordingly gratified in 1782, with a silk gown.

Nearly at the same time, he was nominated to a seat in the Irish parliament. But a sudden change of administration having taken place, on the arrival of the late Marquis of Buckingham, his *patron*, who was eager to be ennobled, instantly took the alarm, and not only turned round suddenly himself, but actually expected his friend to follow his example. But the new member having proved inflexible, it was speedily intimated to him, that he ought to *resign*; and deeming his honour implicated on this occasion, he accordingly complied, and withdrew.\* But he soon after resumed his post in that house, under different and more auspicious circumstances.

Mr. Curran’s practice at the bar, was not for many years

\* Mr. Curran is said to have first taken his seat in the Irish House of Commons, as M. P. for Doneraile. He represented the borough of Kilbeggin, in the year 1783, with Mr. Flood for his colleague; at the next general election in 1790, he was returned with the late Henry Duquerry, Esq., for Rathcormuck in the county of Cork, and sat until the dissolution in 1797. He was not a member of that parliament, which met in 1798, and sanctioned the grand measure of an union with England; nor was he ever returned to the Imperial Parliament.

conspicuous; but at length it encreased to such a degree, as insensibly to lead both to fame and fortune. On all great occasions, he was usually one of the counsel retained, and having rendered himself celebrated at *Nisi Prius*, in consequence of his witty, artful, and able appeals to a jury, he was for the most part employed to conduct trials of this kind. Accordingly, on a variety of occasions, he obtained exemplary damages; and gave ample satisfaction to all his clients. Nor was it only in causes when he *led* the attack, that the talents of this rising barrister were invoked; for when the affairs of Ireland unhappily assumed a terrible, and menacing aspect, he was constantly retained as the defender of all those who were accused of sedition, or tried for treason. It is greatly to be lamented, that many of his speeches on these occasions, have been so inaccurately reported, while others have been wholly omitted, and are now lost, perhaps for ever.

The first of his printed addresses was delivered in 1790, when he presented himself before the Lord Lieutenant and privy council of Ireland, in behalf of Mr. Alderman Howison, who had been elected Lord Mayor of Dublin. The question then under discussion, was, whether the commons had not a right to participate with the court of aldermen, in the election of that officer? On this occasion, the tribunal to whom the appeal had been made, confirmed the election of his client, and thus the ancient privileges of the citizens of Dublin, so long usurped by a corporation of twenty-five persons, were instantly restored and recognised.

The subject of this memoir, appears to have generously come forward without a fee, “an unhired voluntary advocate.” On the other hand, the celebrated Dr. Duigenan\*, was *retained* as counsel for the board of aldermen, and being a man of strong powers, but coarse, rough, and vulgar in his manners, he indulged as usual in much personal abuse. Mr. Curran, alluding to this circumstance, observed: “as to the invectives so liberally bestowed, it might be best to pass them

\* See vol. i. of Annual Obituary.

over without remark — I feel for my clients,” continued he, “too high a respect either to defend them by panegyric, or avenge them by slander. I shall therefore treat those sallies of the learned gentleman’s imagination, exactly in the same manner I would do one of my neighbour’s pigeons — they merely fly abroad *animo revertendi*; and ought to be suffered to return unmolested to their lawful owner !”

In 1794, Mr. Curran obtained great credit for his defence of Archibald Hamilton Rowan, Esq., who was tried for a libel contained in an address from “the Society of United Irishmen at Dublin, to the volunteers of Ireland,” signed by “William Drennan chairman,” and “Archibald Hamilton Rowan, secretary.” This flaming circular, published in 1792, and commencing with “Citizens, soldiers,” states, that as they formerly took up arms to protect their country from foreign enemies, and domestic disturbance; it now became proper to resume them, for the same purpose. To their formation, was owing the peace and protection of that island; to their relaxation has been owing its relapse into impotence and insignificance, &c. &c.

“Citizens — soldiers, to arms ! Take up the shield of freedom, and the pledge of peace — peace the existence and end of your virtuous institution — war, an occasional duty, ought never to be made an occupation. We address you, without any authority, save that of reason; and if we obtain the coincidence of public opinion, it is neither by force nor stratagem; for we have no power to terrify, nor artifice to cajole, nor fund to seduce; here we sit without mace or beadle, neither a mystery, nor a craft, nor a corporation; in four words lies all our power — universal emancipation, and representative legislature; we insist for Catholic emancipation without any modification, but still we consider this necessary enfranchisement as merely the portal to national freedom; wide as this entrance is, wide enough to admit three millions, it is narrow when compared to the capacity and comprehension of our beloved principle, which takes in every individual of the Irish nation, casts an equal eye over the whole island, em-

braces all that think, and feels for all that suffer: the Catholic cause is subordinate to our cause, and included in it; for as United Irishmen we adhere to no sect, but to society — to no cause but Christianity — to no party, but the whole people.” This extraordinary paper recommends the election of deputies from all Ireland to meet at Dungannon, and maintains, that this “civil assembly ought to claim the attendance of the military associations.”

It is not a little remarkable, that at this trial, a guard of soldiers was introduced by order of the sheriff into the court-house, a few moments before the defence of Mr. Rowan. Mr. Curran, who undertook that arduous task, commenced by animadverting on this circumstance; and he also stated, that the present prosecution was *ex-officio*; for the Attorney-General had not thought proper to submit the bill to the cognizance of a grand jury. He then added, that the first information was withdrawn, and a new one filed, which had produced a long and protracted prosecution: it was therefore their duty to enquire whether this gentleman “was pursued as a criminal, or hunted down as a victim?”

After an animated eulogium on the British constitution, to which Ireland had an undoubted right, however, distant she might be from the enjoyment of it, he maintained, “that the only professed object of this noble code, is the general good; and its only foundation, the general will. It is the right of the people,” continued he, “to keep an eternal watch upon the conduct of their rulers; and in order to that, the freedom of the press has been carefully cherished by the law of England. In private defamation let it never be tolerated; in wicked and wanton aspersions upon a good and honest administration, let it never be supported. Not that a good government can be exposed to danger by groundless accusation, but because a bad government is sure to find in the detected falsehoods of a licentious press, a security and a credit, which it otherwise never could obtain.”

The orator then proceeds to define a good government, which is said to consist “in the protection and happiness of

the people;" and he puts it to the jury *on their oath*, to declare whether this be the case in respect to Ireland? He next contends, that for the paper in question to be deserving of punishment, it is necessary to prove three things, viz.

1. That it is a libel :
2. That it was published with a malicious intention ; and
3. That it was published by Mr. Hamilton Rowan.

In the course of this address, he invited the court to recollect, that one of the witnesses had not sworn to the facts, and that another was declared on the testimony of an indifferent person, to be unworthy of credit. He at the same time paid many high compliments to "an illustrious, an adored, and *abused* body of men, who stood forth at an awful period, and assumed the title, which he trusted the ingratitude of their country will never blot from its history: the Volunteers of Ireland."

After this, he maintained, that to associate for a worthy purpose, such as a reform in parliament, is no crime; and that the emancipation of the Catholics of Ireland, is highly praiseworthy.

"I put it to your oaths," adds he, "do you think that a blessing of this kind, that a victory obtained over bigotry and oppression, should have a stigma cast upon it by an ignominious sentence upon men, bold and honest enough to propose such a measure? To propose the redeeming religion from the abuses of the Church, the reclaiming of three millions of men from bondage, and giving liberty to all who had a right to demand it; giving I say, in the so much censured words of this paper, giving universal emancipation !

"I speak in the spirit of the British law, which makes liberty commensurate with, and inseparable from British soil; which proclaims even to the stranger and sojourner the moment he sets his foot on British earth, that the ground on which he treads is *holy*, and consecrated by the genius of Universal emancipation. No matter in what language his doom may have been pronounced; — no matter what complexion is compatible with freedom, an Indian, or an African sun may have

burnt upon him; — no matter in what disastrous battle his liberty may have been cloven down; — no matter with what solemnities he may have been devoted on the altar of slavery: the first moment he sets foot on the sacred soil of Britain, the altar and the god sink together in the dust; his soul walks abroad in her own majesty; his body swells beyond the measure of his chains, that burst around him, and he stands redeemed, regenerated, and disenthralled by the irresistible genius of UNIVERSAL EMANCIPATION !”

After this apostrophe to the genius of English freedom, which called forth a sudden and involuntary burst of applause, he proceeded to state, that they now resided in a country, which is bound by an indissoluble union, with British liberty.

“ *Una solus ambobus erit, commune periculum.*”

“ But to accomplish this union,” adds the pleader, “ you must learn to become like the English people. It is in vain to say you will protect their liberty, if you abandon your own. England is marked by a natural avarice of freedom, which she is studious to engross and accumulate, but most unwilling to impart; whether from any necessity of her policy, or from her weakness, or from her pride, I will not presume to say; but so is the fact; you need not look to the east, nor to the west, you need only look to yourselves.

“ If it required additional confirmation, I should state the case of the invaded American, and the subjugated Indian, to prove that the policy of England, has ever been to govern her connexions more as colonies than as allies, and it must be owing to the great spirit indeed of Ireland, if she continues free. Rely upon it, she will ever have to hold her course against an adverse current; rely upon it if the popular spring does not continue strong and elastic, a short interval of debilitated nature and broken force, will send you down the stream again, and re-consign you to the condition of a province.”

Mr. Curran failed on this occasion; but in 1798, he proved more fortunate, in respect to his client, Mr. Patrick Finney,



who was indicted for high treason. The charge was chiefly supported by the testimony of a witness, who asserted that he had been forced to become an *United Irishman* in order to save his life; that he was made drunk two nights running, which prevented him from giving information, that there were 111,000 men in one province, added to 10,000 inhabitants of the metropolis, ready to assist in the project of an invasion, &c. Mr. Curran, after severely animadverting on his testimony, continued as follows:

“ Whether all the whiskey that he has been *forced* to drink, has produced this effect I know not, but Mr. O’Brien’s loyalty is better than his memory. In the spirit of loyalty he became prophetic, and told to Lord Portarlington the circumstances relative to the intended attack on the ordnance stores, full three weeks before he had obtained the information through moral agency — Oh ! honest James O’Brien ! honest James O’Brien !

“ Let others vainly argue on logical truth, and ethical falsehood, but if I can once fasten him to the ring of perjury, I will bait him at it until his testimony shall fail of producing a verdict, although human nature were as vile and monstrous in you, as she is in him ! He says, he has made a bit of a *mistake* ! but surely no man’s life is safe, if such evidence were admissible ; what arguments can be founded on his testimony, when he swears he has perjured himself, and therefore, any thing he says must be false ; I must not believe him at all, for it is impossible by a paradoxical conclusion to suppose, against the damnation of his own testimony, that he is an *honest man*.

“ What did the simple evidence of John Clarke, of Bluebell, amount to against this O’Brien ? It attached the double crime of artifice and perjury, and added robbery to the personification. There are now living in Dublin, there are at this moment thousands, and ten thousands of your fellow-citizens anxiously waiting to know if you will convict the prisoner on the evidence of a wilful and corrupt perjurer ? Whether they are, each in his turn, to feel the fatal effects of his con-

demnation? or whether they are to find protection in the laws from the machinations of such a base informer?

“ Do you feel, gentlemen, that I have been wantonly aspersing this man’s character? Is he not a perjurer? A swindler? And that he is not a murderer will depend on you. He assumes the character of a king’s officer to rob the king’s people of their money, and afterwards, when their property fails him, to rob them of their lives!

“ What say you to his habitual fellowship with baseness and fraud? He gives a recipe instructive of the art of felony, and counterfeiting the king’s coin; and when questioned about it, what is his answer? — Why truly, that it was ‘only a light easy way of getting money! — *Only a little bit of a humbug.*’

“ Good God! I ask you, has it ever come across you to meet with such a constellation of infamy?”

Mr. Curran’s first printed speech, as a member of the House of Commons, appears to have been delivered on Tuesday, Dec. 16, 1783; it is extremely short, and concludes with a motion in the following words: viz. “ That it is the sole, and undoubted privilege of the House of Commons of Ireland, to originate all bills of supply and grants of public money, in such a manner, and with such clauses as they shall think proper.”

He spoke also on the question of “ attachments,” in 1785. On this occasion, he desired the House to look up to England as a model by which they ought to be guided: “ She was the parent, the archetype of liberty, which she had preserved inviolate in its grand points; while among them it had been both violated and debased.”

On perceiving the Attorney-General, Mr. Fitzgibbon, asleep, he immediately alluded to that circumstance as follows: —

“ I hope that on this occasion, I shall not disturb the slumbers of any Right Hon. Gentleman; and yet,” adds he, “ perhaps I ought rather to envy than blame the tranquillity of the learned member. I do not, however, feel myself so happily tempered by nature, as to be lulled to repose by the

storms that now shake the land!" He then proceeded to attack his conduct respecting the application and extension of the doctrine of attachments. "If an English Attorney-General," said he, "had attempted such a daring outrage on public liberty and law, he must have found some friend to warn him not to debase the court, and make it appear to all mankind the odious engine of arbitrary power; not to put it into so unnatural a situation, as that of standing between the people and the crown, or between the people and their representatives.

"I would warn him not to bring public hatred on the government by the adoption of illegal prosecutions; for if he showed himself afraid of proceeding against offenders in the ordinary mode, then offenders would be exalted by the arbitrary prosecution of them; they would be deemed suffering patriots; their crimes would become popular!

"I could wish, I own, that the liberties of Ireland should be supported by her own children; but if she is scorned and rejected by them, when her all is at stake, I must implore the assistance even of strangers.—I will call on the Right Hon. Secretary to support the principles of the British Constitution. Let him not render his administration odious to the people of Ireland, by applying his influence in this House, to produce the ruin of our personal freedom. Let him not give a pretence to the enemies of his friend in a sister kingdom, to say that the son of the illustrious Chatham is disgracing the memory of his great father; that the trophies of his Irish administration, are the introduction of an inquisition among us, and the extinction of a trial by jury; let them not say that the pulse of the constitution beats only in the heart of the empire, but that it is dead in the extremities."

Mr. Fitzgibbon, having severely and grossly attacked the last speaker, whom he called "a babbler," the latter in reply, animadverted on the conduct of an Attorney-General, who, "with great liberality, and no small share of parliamentary decency, had answered his arguments with personality!" He then recapitulated and exposed the positions laid down by his

adversary, purporting that the House of Commons had no right to investigate the conduct of the judges; that any interposition would be to declare them guilty, &c. &c.

“As for myself,” adds he, “I find it difficult to reply, not being accustomed to pronounce my own panegyric. But although I cannot tell this House, what I am, I may be permitted to tell what I am not. *I am not* then, a man, who can claim respect both as to person and character, from office alone; *I am not* then a young man, who thrusts himself into the fore ground of a picture which ought to be occupied by a better figure; *I am not* then a man who replies with invective, when sinking under the weight of argument; *I am not* then a man, who denied the necessity of a parliamentary reform, at the time I myself had proved the necessity of it by reviling my own constituents, the parish clerk, the sexton, and gravedigger: and if there be any man here present, who can apply what *I am not*, to himself, I leave him to think of it in the committee, and to ruminate on it, when he returns home.”

When Mr. Orde introduced his famous propositions to the Irish Parliament, he found a powerful opponent in Mr. Curran, who ludicrously compared them to the famous horse, *Johannes Caballus*, mentioned by Rabelais, which animal had obtained the degree of Doctor of Medicine from the College of Rheims!

After they had been withdrawn, he congratulated the House of Commons, and the country at large, on the result:

“The cloud that has been collecting so long, and threatening to break in tempest and ruin on our heads, has passed harmless away. The siege that had been undertaken against the constitution was raised, and the enemy is gone. They might then walk abroad without fear, and brave the dangers they had escaped. On this side was drawn the line of circumvallation that cut them off from the eastern world; and on that the corresponding one, that enclosed them from the west. Nor let us forget, in our exultation, to whom we are indebted for our deliverance. Here stood the trusty mariner (Mr. Conolly) at his old station, the mast-head, and gave the signal. Here

(pointing to Mr. Flood) all the wisdom of the state was collected, exploring your weakness and your strength, detecting every ambuscade, and pointing to the hidden battery that was brought to bear on the shrine of freedom. And there (Mr. Grattan) was exerted an eloquence more than human, inspiring, forming, directing, animating, to the great purposes of your salvation. But I feel that I am leaving the question, and the bounds of moderation: for there is an ebullition in greatness of joy, that almost borders on insanity. I own indeed that I feel something like it, in the profuseness with which I share in the general triumph."

On the debate about the reduction of the *Pension Bill*, in 1786, Sir Boyle Roche opposed all change: "he would not stop the fountain of royal favour, but let it flow freely, spontaneously, and abundantly, like Holywell, in Wales, that turns so many mills." Mr. Curran, on this occasion, sarcastically replied, "that, instead of privilege setting up his back to oppose prerogative, it now saddled its back, and invited prerogative to ride on it, and thus tried how comfortably they might both jog along! I am delighted," added he, "to hear the advocates for the royal bounty, wishing it to flow as freely and spontaneously as Holywell! If the crown grants were to double the amount of the revenue in pensions, such worthy and considerate advisers, would readily approve of the bounty of their royal master: for he is the breath of their nostrils!"

"This polyglot of wealth, this museum of curiosities, the pension list, embraces every link in the human chain, every description of men, women, and children, from the lofty excellence of a Hawke, or a Rodney, to the debased situation of the lady who humbleth herself that she may be exalted. But the lesson it inculcates, forms its greatest perfection: — it teacheth that sloth and vice are to eat our bread; while virtue and honesty may starve after they have earned it. It teaches the idle and dissolute to look up for that support, which they are too proud to stoop for, in order to earn! Those saints on the pension list are like the lillies of the field — they toil not, neither do they spin, and yet are arrayed like Solomon

in all his glory. Their fate teaches us a lesson, which might have been learned from Epictetus — that it is sometimes good not to be over virtuous: it shows, that in proportion as our distresses encrease, the munificence of the crown encreases also — in proportion as our clothes are rent, the royal mantle is extended over us !

“ But notwithstanding the pension list, like charity, covers a multitude of sins, give me leave to say, that the crown in extending its charity, its liberality, its profusion, is laying a foundation for an independence of parliament; for hereafter, instead of orators or patriots accounting for their conduct to such mean and unworthy persons as freeholders and burgesses, they will learn to despise them, and look up to the first man in the state: for by so doing, they will have this security for their independence, that while any man in the kingdom has a shilling, they will not want one !

“ Supposing that at any future time, the boroughs of Ireland should decline from their present flourishing and prosperous state — supposing they should fall into the hands of men who would wish to drive a profitable commerce, by having Members of Parliament to *hire or let* ; in such a case, a Secretary would find great difficulty if the proprietors of members should enter into a combination to form a monopoly; to prevent which in time, the wisest way is to purchase up the *raw material*, young Members of Parliament, just rough from grass, and when they are once bitted, and he has got a pretty good stud — perhaps of seventy — he may laugh, in his turn, at the slave merchant !

“ Some of them he may teach to sound through the nose, like a barrel organ; some of them might be taught, in the course of a few months, to cry hear ! hear ! — chair ! chair ! Again, he might have some so trained that he need only pull a string, and up gets a *repeating member* ; and if any of them grows so dull, that they could neither speak nor make motions, he might have them taught to dance, *pedibus ira in sententia*. This improvement indeed might be extended; he might have them dressed in coats and shirts all of one colour, and of

a Sunday, he could march them to church, two by two, to the great edification of the people, and the honour of the Christian religion — afterwards, like ancient Spartans, or the fraternity of Kilmainham, they might dine all together in a large hall. Good heaven ! what a sight to see them feeding in public upon public viands, and talking on public subjects for the benefit of the public. It is a pity they are not immortal — but I hope they will flourish as a corporation, and that pensioners will beget pensioners to the end of the chapter !”

It may be readily supposed, that Mr. Curran joined his two friends, Mr. Grattan, and the late Mr. Ponsonby, on the grand question relative to Catholic emancipation. Indeed, during the winter of 1796, when the former of these moved “that the admissibility of persons professing the Catholic religion, to seats in parliament, was consistent with the safety of the crown, and the connexion of Ireland with Great Britain,” we find him warmly supporting that position. He began by expressing his indignation at the despicable attempt to skulk from the discussion of so important and so necessary a question, by the affectation of an appeal to *discretion*. If the enemies of Ireland, felt any inclination to become acquainted with their discussions, it might as well be proposed to conceal from them the course of the Danube, or the Rhine, as the course of a debate in that assembly, “which was as winding, and as muddy as either of these rivers.” “So frightfully disunited and divided are we,” adds this member “that we could not venture to trust ourselves with the possession of our own freedom ; for we are all animated as one man, against redressing our grievances.”

He then entered into a detail of the Popery laws ; these were somewhat relaxed in 1778, and the consequences even of a partial union with their countrymen, was, that the united efforts of the two bodies, restored that constitution which had been lost by their separation ; “in 1782, you became free ; your Catholic brethren shared the dangers of the

conflict, but you had not justice or gratitude to let them share the fruits of the victory.

“ I now call upon the House to consider of the necessity of acting with a social and conciliatory spirit. A disunited nation cannot long subsist. With infinite regret must any man look forward to the alienation of three millions of our people; and to an unexampled degree of subserviency and corruption in the fourth; and I am sorry to think, that in case of such an event, the inevitable consequence would be an union with Great Britain. And if any one desires to know what that would be, I will tell him: it would be the emigration of every man of consequence from Ireland; it would be the participation of British taxes without British trade; it would be the extinction of the Irish name as a people. We should become a wretched colony, perhaps leased out to a company of Jews, as was formerly in contemplation, and governed by a few tax-gatherers, and excisemen, unless possibly you may add fifteen or twenty couples of Irish members, who might be found every session sleeping in their collars under the manger of the British minister.

“ I cannot foresee future events,” adds he, towards the conclusion; “ I cannot be appalled by the future, for I cannot see it, but the present I can see, and it is big with danger. It may be the crisis of political life, or political extinction; and now is the time, fairly to state to the country, whether they had any thing, and what, to fight for; whether they were to struggle for a connection of tyranny, or of privilege; whether the administration of England will condescend to forgive the insolence of her happier days; or whether as the beams of her prosperity have wasted and consumed us, so the very frost of her adversary shall perform the deleterious effects of fire, and burn up our privileges and our hopes for ever.”

The speech of Mr. Curran at the bar of the House of Commons of Ireland, in behalf of Lady Pamela Fitzgerald and her children, has been generally deemed one of his most brilliant effusions; but we lament, that it is too long for insertion in this place.



It is not a little singular, that of all, or nearly all the Irish lawyers of his day, with a splendid exception on the part of the late Mr. Ponsonby — Mr. Curran alone, seems to have remained firm and unmoved in his political principles and attachments. This Abdiel-like uniformity, subjected him to many mortifications, and rendered many celebrated men his enemies. He himself, however, boldly and fearlessly persevered in the path which he had first chosen, and in spite of every opposition, moved on in a career equally brilliant and singular. His frequent disputes with Mr. Fitzgibbon, at length ended in a duel, in which no blood was indeed shed; but on the other hand, no concessions on either side took place. Yet it was supposed, that all former animosities were from this moment buried in oblivion; and there is, indeed, reason to imagine, that after this, no altercation actually took place either in the course of law, or the House of Commons. This gentleman, however, was soon after promoted to the seals, and became a peer of parliament by the title of Lord Clare.\* In this new capacity, they again met, but in very different positions; the one being Lord Chancellor, and the other a leading counsel at the Chancery bar, with a silk gown and a blue bag full of briefs to the very top. But Mr. Curran soon found, that he was not received with the same attention and politeness, as during the days of Lord Lifford, when he was but a young practitioner, or at the period when the seals were in commission, and the office filled for a time by the Archbishop of Dublin, and the Chief Justices, Carlton and Bradstreet. On the contrary, he experienced nothing but frowns; his motions were discountenanced, his arguments were always questioned, his law was constantly doubted; and so marked and personal is said to have been the opposition on the part of the court, that not a single client was left him at the end of term. A little before his death he was known to have estimated his actual loss at the sum of forty thousand

\* Lord Fitzgibbon, Viscount Fitzgibbon, and Earl of Clare, was nominated Lord Chancellor of Ireland, June 30, 1789.

pounds\*, and this perhaps will account for the smallness of his fortune, which at his demise, proved to be far inferior to what his nearest relatives had supposed.

The unhappy insurrection that afterwards took place in Ireland, indeed, brought him a number of new clients; for after it had been happily quelled, nearly all those tried either for sedition or treason, endeavoured to retain him as an advocate.

He accordingly became their official defender; and in that capacity exerted himself with a degree of vigour, eloquence, and success, that had not been often equalled. But it is to be recollected, "that of some he was the voluntary unpaid defender; while the distressed situation and fallen fortunes of others, prevented the possibility of an adequate reward."

Mr. Curran, however, contrived to live like a gentleman, and both at his country-seat, as well as in Dublin, continued to exercise the rites of hospitality, with a spirit peculiar to his countrymen. His table was constantly open to all such as lived in intimacy with him; and every Englishman, properly recommended, was sure to find a hearty welcome under his roof.

At length a new, fortunate, and doubtless unexpected epoch occurred in his life, which if it did not raise him to the bench or decorate him with a title, at least secured a respectable and honourable retreat for his old age. The event to which we now allude, was the sudden advancement of Mr. Fox, in 1806, to the post of Secretary of State, in conjunction with Lord Grenville, with whom he had just formed a coalition. In consequence of this change in England, a correspondent one of course took place in Ireland, and Mr. Ponsonby was immediately invested with the seals. The new Lord Chancellor could not endure to see his former colleague in retirement, and almost in disgrace, while he now occupied so high a station in that country, for the rights, liberties, and prosperity of which, they had both contended

† He specified this precise sum a little before his demise, to the writer of this article.

side by side in the House of Commons during so many years. But many difficulties existed, as to the precise situation which Mr. Curran ought to occupy. Like other veterans at the bar, he doubtless looked towards the bench for an asylum, during the remainder of his days: for he had now attained the fifty-sixth year of his life: and had spent no fewer than thirty-five of these at the bar. But as it was necessary to fill some intermediate station for a short time, and as the new ministers were not disposed to remove a very able and useful Attorney-General entirely for his sake; another expedient was resorted to.

Accordingly, the Right Honourable Sir Michael Smith, then Master of the Rolls, was prevailed upon to retire on a pension; and Mr. Curran was immediately nominated his successor, with the usual appointment to a seat at the Council Board. That this negotiation should be thus speedily closed, was on the whole a very fortunate circumstance, considering the events that speedily ensued; for had not the appointment then taken place, it could never have been effected, as the new administration was not suffered to remain more than a few months in office.

Unhappily, however, during the negotiation alluded to above, Mr. Ponsonby, by way of facilitating the exchange, consented to grant an annuity to one of the subordinate officers, who had retired along with his chief; but the new Master of the Rolls, who does not appear to have been privy to this transaction, resisted its completion, and defended his conduct in a letter to the Right Honourable Henry Grat-tan, M. P., a common friend to both parties.

This unfortunately produced an immediate and irreparable breach; after which, Mr. Ponsonby, actuated by a high sense of honour, paid the annuity for some years, out of his own private fortune.

Meanwhile Mr. Curran exerted himself in discharging the duties of his new office, which had hitherto been generally considered as a *sinecure*; while that of the same description in England, as appears by the conduct of the distinguished

lawyer who lately exercised its functions, is one of the most laborious, as well as respectable legal departments under the crown.

The subject of this memoir seems actually to have rendered it effective in Ireland also, for we find that in one instance, which has been fortunately recorded, he made a most exemplary decision. This was in the case of *Merry versus* "one John Power a Popish priest," who proved to be the Right Reverend John Power, D. D. titular Bishop of Waterford. The heir at law hoped, in strict conformity to ancient practice, to annul a few inconsiderable legacies to some poor old women, under pretext of their being *bequests for Popish and superstitious uses* ; but his "Honour," after strongly condemning the principle, actually dismissed the cause with full costs. This judgment was in strict accordance with his own notions, in respect to "Catholic emancipation;" and it must be allowed that it would have been in direct violation of both law and equity, had he made any distinction, merely proceeding from religious prejudices.

Mr. Curran held the office of Master of the Rolls in Ireland, during the space of about seven years. At the end of that period, finding his health on the decline, he was prevailed on to resign; and a previous treaty having accordingly taken place, the Right Hon. Sir William M'Mahon, Bart., was promoted to the vacant office in 1814. He now found himself, for the first time in his life, exempt from care, free, independent, and without controul, with "all the world before him:" the difficulty, perhaps, was where to "choose." Being determined, however, to leave Ireland, he repaired to this country; whence he soon after took a journey to France. Having crossed the Straits of Dover, in company with a respectable friend \*, he landed at Calais, and thence proceeded to Boulogne. Having always exhibited a taste for poetry, while contemplating the bases of the pillar intended to have been erected in honour to Buonaparte, by the French army, he penned an epigram in his chaise, on the sudden rise and fall of that celebrated man.

\* Mr. Webbe, a gentleman, now on a visit to Paris.

*“ To the Ex-Emperor of France.*

“ When Ambition attains her desire,

“ How Fortune must smile at the joke :

“ ‘ You rose in a pillar of fire,

“ You sink in a pillar of smoke !’ ”

After this he visited Paris a second time, for he had been there before, in 1802, and on this occasion exhibited a considerable degree of familiarity with the language of the country. The palace of the Louvre still contained all that was rare or estimable in respect to the fine arts. The grand collection of statues then occupied the basement story; while the gallery above exhibited the greatest and noblest collection of pictures that the human eye had ever at one time beheld. The horses taken from Venice, yet occupied their pedestals in front of the Thuilleries; and the lion of St. Mark seemed to wonder at being transferred to the front of the Hospital of the Invalids.

Highly pleased and gratified with every thing that he beheld, Mr. Curran returned once more to England, where he spent the succeeding winter. In the course of the next year, he again passed over to his native country, and remained some time at his seat near Dublin. But he now found himself attacked by a variety of complaints; and in the autumn deemed it necessary to return for the purpose of spending the winter, in the vicinity of London. Shunning the crowded streets and noxious air of the metropolis, he now took up his abode in Amelia Place, Brompton, being actuated with the hope that an asthmatic affection with which he was troubled, might be there alleviated; and he accordingly appeared to obtain some relief.

Notwithstanding every precaution, however, his fatal hour rapidly approached. From two seizures of a paralytic kind he recovered, and that to such a degree that he walked out and saw his friends, occasionally, as before. But a third proved fatal; and he died after a short illness on the evening of the 13th of November, 1817.

Thus ceased to exist, in the 67th year of his age, the Right Hon. John Curran, a man of high attainments and no incon-

siderable degree of celebrity : a patriot, a poet, a man of wit, a lawyer, and a legislator.

In the first of these capacities, he always evinced a hearty attachment to the interests of Ireland : her commerce, her rights, her privileges, and her independence, anterior to the union, were warmly and zealously advocated by him. But these claims were never made or supported in opposition to her connection with England ; on the contrary, he deemed the attainment of them expressly necessary for the prosperity and advantage of both countries. As to the grand question of " Catholic emancipation," he was then in a small minority ; but Mr. Pitt, previously to his demise, and Lord Castlereagh, as well as Mr. Canning, subsequently to that event, have both inclined to the same opinion.

As a poet, it has already been observed, that Mr. Curran possessed a strong inclination to cultivate the muses ; and he did not offer up his vows at their shrine in vain. Of his compositions, which, as may be conceived by every one acquainted with his character, were chiefly of a gay and lively nature, the writer of this article possesses a considerable collection. The first intended to be mentioned here, is entitled the " Plate Warmer," which is unhappily too long for insertion. The subject consists of the family quarrels of Jupiter and Juno, and as the " father of gods and men" was often reduced to eat a cold meal after being heartily scolded ; and Venus, out of pure compassion, determined to solicit Vulcan for the aid of his skill at those unhappy moments, when :

" His knife and fork, unused were cross'd,  
His temper and his dinner lost ;  
For ere the vesper peal was done,  
The viands were as cold as stone.

" This Venus saw, and grieved to see,  
For though she thought Jove rather free,  
Yet at his idle pranks she smiled,  
As wanderings of a heart beguiled ;

“ Nor wondered, if astray he run,  
 For well she knew her scape-grace son;  
 And who can hope his way to find,  
 When blind, and guided by the blind?  
 Her finger to her brow she brought,  
 And gently touched the source of thought;  
 The unseen fountain of the brain  
 Where fancy breeds her shadowy train.”

On application to the celestial blacksmith, to whose arsenal she now repairs in great state, he exclaims :

“ And could'st thou vainly hope to find  
 A power the female tongue to bind?  
 Sweet friend! 'twere easier far to drain  
 The waters from th' unruly main,  
 Or quench the stars, or bid the sun  
 No more his destin'd courses run.

“ Thine other wish, some mystic charm  
 To keep the sufferer's viands warm,  
 I know no interdict of fate,  
 Which says that art mayn't warm a plate!—

“ The model too, I've got for that :  
 I take it from thy gipsy-hat ;  
 I saw thee thinking o'er the past ;  
 I saw thine eye-beam upward cast ;  
 I saw the concave catch the ray  
 And turn its course another way ;  
 Reflected back upon thy cheek,  
 It glow'd upon the dimpled *sleek* !”

The two following sonnets are of a plaintive cast.

I.

“ THOU EMBLEM OF FAITH.

“ *Written on returning a Ring.*

“ Thou emblem of faith, thou sweet pledge of a passion  
 That heav'n has ordain'd for a happier than me,  
 On the hand of the fair, go resume thy lov'd station,  
 And bask in the beam that is lavished on thee.

And when some past scene thy remembrance recalling,  
 Her bosom shall rise to the tear that is falling,  
 With the transport of love may no anguish combine,  
 But the bliss be all her's, and the suff'ring all mine.

“ But ah! had the ringlet thou lov'st to surround,  
 Had it e'er kiss'd the rose on the cheek of my dear,  
 What ransom to buy thee could ever be found?  
 Or what force from my heart thy possession could tear?  
 A mourner, a suff'rer, a wand'rer, a stranger,  
 In sickness, in sadness, in pain, or in danger,  
 Next that heart would I wear thee till its last pang was o'er,  
 Then together we'd sink, and I'd part thee no more.” \*

## II.

### “ LINES WRITTEN AT RICHMOND.

“ On the same spot where weeping *Thomson* paid  
 The last sad tribute to his *TALBOT*'s shade;  
 An humble muse, by fond remembrance led,  
 Bewails the absent where he mourn'd the dead.

“ Nor differs much the subject of the strain,  
 Whether of *death* or *absence* we complain;  
 Whether we're sunder'd by the final scene,  
 Or envious seas disjoining roll between.

“ Absence, the dire effect, is still the same,  
 And *death* and *distance* differ but in name.  
 Yet sure they're different if the peaceful grave  
 From *haunting thoughts* its low laid tenant save!

“ Alas! my friend, were *Providence* inclin'd,  
 In unrelenting wrath to human kind,  
 To take back every blessing that she gave,  
 From the wide ruin she would *memory* save;

\* This has been set to music, and is inserted in the “ Irish Melodies.”



“ For *memory* still, with more than *Egypt's* art,  
Embalming every grief that wounds the heart  
Sits at the altar she had rais'd to woe,  
And feeds the source whence tears must ever flow.”

As a lawyer, Mr. Curran had read sufficient, perhaps, for his own purposes and those of his clients. It is not here meant to insinuate that he possessed the depth and research of a Coke, in one age, or the erudition and patience of a Hargrave, in another; but it ought to be recollected that his practice, more especially of late years, was chiefly connected with the criminal law and *Nisi Prius* cases. The qualification alluded to seems, indeed, to be less attended to in the sister kingdom, than with us. We not unfrequently find a judge there, condescending to *crack a joke* on the bench; or uttering a pun on an occasion that would have produced additional gloom and gravity on the brows of our ermined sages. Indeed we have been told, that a certain vein of humour; frequent and apposite quotations from the classics; with a disposition to diverge and declaim, are often tolerated in the gravest speeches at the Irish bar.

In cross-questioning an unwilling evidence; in detecting the sinister motives of the informer; in discovering the character of a perjured witness; no one is allowed to have exhibited superior acuteness; while in his eloquent appeals both to the heart and understanding, he was frequently enabled to display the ascendancy of powerful talents, so as to appal guilt and render innocence triumphant, with unutterable force and effect. Thus if the opinion of his countrymen and contemporaries be correct, he must have occupied an exalted station on these occasions in the eyes of the people of Ireland. He could be no common man, indeed, who, uniting two great and distinct qualities, usually disjoined in others, in his own person, could at one and the same time display the technical skill of a Garrow, and the persuasive and overpowering eloquence of an Erskine.

In respect to his person, Mr. Curran was deficient in one of the qualifications which Cicero has considered as indispensable in an orator. In point of stature he was diminutive; in re-

spect to complexion, swarthy; his hair was black and short; and he was wholly inattentive in regard to every article of dress. He was but little indebted indeed to the aid of the tailor, hatter, and shoemaker, for he did not study fashion in his clothes, and never appears to have aspired at elegance.

In private life, he was both amiable and entertaining. His voice was soft; his manners engaging; his wit occasionally sparkled like his Champagne; and while he constantly exhibited an uninterrupted strain of good humour, he could bear with the infirmities of others, to a degree scarcely credible in one of his spirit and temperament.

In respect to his family, one event of a disagreeable nature has already been mentioned, and it is not intended to dwell upon it here. Three sons and two daughters survive him; of the former of these, two were bred to the bar; and a third is a captain in the navy; while of the latter, one remains single, and the other is married to the Rev. Mr. Taylor, a clergyman of the Church of England.

The fortune he left behind him is but small, being estimated at somewhat less than 18,000*l*. To those acquainted with his ordinary habits, which were far from being expensive, this sum did not equal their expectations; for his income was supposed to have amounted to about 4000*l*. per ann. while his establishment, of late, was small and unostentatious.

The corpse of Mr. Curran, inclosed in an outward coffin of lead, was kept above ground, at his apartments, No. 7, Ameliaplace, Brompton, during a period of full three weeks. This circumstance, doubtless, proceeded from the absence of his will, which had been left in Ireland; for it was supposed by some of his family, that it contained a clause enjoining that his remains should be buried near to those of a dearly beloved mother\*, in the church-yard of Newmarket, in the county of Cork.

\* Her maiden name was Philpot; and after the death of her husband, she lived for a considerable period under the roof of her son, who always treated her with a degree of attention truly filial.

At length, on the morning of the 4th of November, they were deposited in the church of St. Pancras, in the county of Middlesex. To one so distinguished, the Abbey of Westminster, where his bones might have reposed among those of the great men of England, was considered as the most appropriate place by many of his admirers ; but it is said, they will be speedily transferred to the country that gave him birth, where a monument, worthy of his talents and celebrity, is intended to be erected to his memory.

The funeral was conducted in a modest and simple, but respectable manner ; and what is not a little remarkable, with an exception of the members of his own family, consisted chiefly, if not wholly, of men of letters.

## No. IX.

JAMES GLENIE, Esq. M.A. AND F.R.S.

OF LONDON AND EDINBURGH ; FORMERLY AN OFFICER BOTH IN THE  
ROYAL ARTILLERY AND CORPS OF ROYAL ENGINEERS.

TO the names of a Stewart, a Simpson, and a Maclaurin, all distinguished geometers and natives of Scotland, may now be fairly added that of the subject of the present memoir. His life more varied by incident and adventure, than that of any one of his countrymen, who have been just named, affords, of course, a wider scope for reflection, and a larger range for biography. It is connected, indeed, with the history of the times in which we live.

James Glenie, a man of singular endowments, was born in 1750; in that fertile tract of country, happily situate on the shores of the Forth, and the German Ocean, formerly called the "kingdom," and now the shire of Fife. The precise spot was designated by him, with topographical exactitude: for he always boasted during the whole course of his life, "that he first saw the light of heaven, in that very parish which had the honour to produce one of the most illustrious, and unfortunate of the sons of Caledonia." By this he plainly indicated that extraordinary man, whose early talents and rare endowments have readily obtained for him the appellation of the "admirable Crichton."

His father had been an officer of the army, a sturdy veteran who had fought, and perhaps, bled for his country, during many hard campaigns. He is said to have been present both in the field of Dettingen, and at the siege of Belleisle; events

which he was accustomed to mention with an honest pride. It appears from an authentic document, that the Captain, and a daughter were both living in 1777, at which period, they resided in the parish of Leslie, about eight miles from the town of Kircaldy.

Young Glenie, as is usual in the northern portion of this island, received the rudiments of his education at a parochial school. At a proper age, however, he repaired to the University of St. Andrew, where both Knox and Buchanan had been students.

Here he certainly either displayed, or attained such a skill in the Greek and Latin languages, as would have entitled him to respect, even if he had not disclosed an early taste for the sciences. But the bent and structure of his mind, admirably fitted him for geometry. - Such was his proficiency, that in 1769, when in the mathematical class, he obtained a prize for the second time, on account of his excellence in that department. This consisted of a work, still in high repute, entitled, "Elements of Geometry, by Thomas Simpson, F. R. S., 2d edit. 1760." It was a present from Thomas the eighth Earl of Kinnoul, then Chancellor of his College, and who conducted himself with such liberality to men of talents, as to be considered a northern Mæcenas. Here follows the Latin address, printed from the original manuscript version, prefixed to the work in question:

"Ingenuo magnæq. spei Adolescenti

JACOBO GLENIE

Propter insignes in Artibus humanioribus Progressus in Classe

Mathematica secundo, Præmium hoc literarium, ex sententia

Præpositi et Professorum Collegii St. Salvatoris

et Sti. Leonardi:

DEDIT

Nobilissimus D. Comes de Kinnoull Academiae ad Fanum

Andreae Cancellarius pridie Idus Aprilis A. D. 1769.

Quod Testor.

JOANNES YOUNG, P. P.

Notwithstanding his early and eminent attainments in mathematics, Mr. Glenie, was originally destined for holy orders. He accordingly attended the divinity class\*, and appears to have paid great attention to his studies; for in addition to his other acquirements he was a keen polemic and a theologian, well versed in all the niceties and distinctions of his art. No one was better acquainted with the tenets of the various churches that are either established or tolerated throughout Europe, than himself. He was accustomed to argue most learnedly, acutely, and metaphysically, on the doctrines of transubstantiation, and consubstantiation; and like men in general, appeared finally, to lean towards the creed of that sect, for the ministry of which he was expressly educated. Had he proceeded, there can be little doubt, but that like Dr. Matthew Stewart, father of Mr. Dugald S. who was one of its ornaments, he would have so distinguished himself by his geometrical talents, as to have been invited to the mathematical chair of one of the five Universities of his native country. Like that same professor too, he would doubtless have left a great name behind him.

A favourite pursuit necessarily becomes a ruling one, and that in which a young and ambitious individual excels, is most likely to tincture the future character of his life. This was precisely the case in the instance now before us: for whether it was, that a presentation to a *Kirk*, did not readily occur, or that the memory of the exploits of his father, in conjunction with his own excellence in a science intimately connected with the art of war, occupied and inflamed his youthful imagination; certain it is, that he was at length smitten with a passion for distinguishing himself as a military man.

Here again, that early reputation for talents which afterwards proved so serviceable to his country, readily paved the way for

\* The learned and Reverend Doctor Pierson, of Chelsea, formerly Minister of the English Church at Amsterdam; and the late Dr. William Thomson, of Kensington, were among the number of his fellow-students.

his advancement. The Professors of St. Andrew's, proud of a student, than whom few, perhaps, had more distinguished themselves, since the epoch of Buchanan, determined if possible, to gratify his wishes; and on this occasion they were doubtless joined by their worthy and accomplished Chancellor. An application was accordingly made to the late General Lord Adam Gordon, uncle to the present Duke of Gordon, and at that period Commander-in-Chief of the forces in Scotland. This nobleman immediately acceded to their wishes; and in the course of a few months more, we actually find Mr. Glenie a candidate for the artillery at Woolwich.

To a mind so gifted, nothing could be more facile than the application of geometry to fortification, and the doctrine of projectiles. Accordingly, after a short course, and a satisfactory examination, he was declared fully qualified for a commission; and he actually obtained one soon after without any difficulty.

A contest between the mother-country, and her American colonies, unhappily took place in the year 1775. On this occasion, it was deemed necessary to send a large body of both native and foreign troops across the Atlantic, and these were accompanied by formidable detachments of artillery, an *arm*, in which Great Britain at that period, greatly excelled the insurgents; as she undoubtedly surpasses all Europe at the present moment.

Mr. Glenie, arrived in the harbour of New York, at a time when every thing assumed a most prosperous and imposing aspect. General Howe had penetrated to the Chesapeake, effected a victory at Brandy-wine, and captured Philadelphia; while Burgoyne seized on Ticonderoga, and arriving on the banks of the North River, already proclaimed his expectations of an easy conquest.

Our Lieutenant of artillery was immediately placed under the orders of General St. Leger \*, uncle to the gay and accomplished Colonel, once so well known in the circles of fashion; and such already was his reputation, that he appears to have

\* He then possessed the rank of Colonel only.

been either the sole officer, or at least the senior in command in his own department, during the expedition now meditated. The detachment to which he appertained, experienced a variety of privations, and was exposed to far more perils from the close and difficult nature of the country, than the sword of the enemy. Having at length formed a junction on the Mohawk river, with Colonel Johnson and a considerable body of Indians, it was determined, in pursuance of secret instructions, to lay siege to, and capture Fort Stanwix, an important out-post, then occupied by an American garrison, under Colonel Gansevorte. Accordingly on the arrival of the troops the place was invested, and summoned, while batteries were raised under the immediate superintendence of the subject of this memoir. Having succeeded in out-flanking the enemy's defences, and maintaining a great superiority of fire, no doubts were entertained of an immediate surrender. But in the course of the very night, when every thing was completed for an assault, the cannon of the Americans being silenced; his Commander received the unpleasing intelligence, that Colonel Baum, with a considerable body of the northern army, had been surrounded at Bennington, and that Burgoyne himself, was actually in danger of being captured.

Such melancholy and unprosperous tidings, produced a sudden and immediate retreat. Accordingly, long before break of day, General St. Leger decamped, Indians and all, and so secret and rapid were his motions, that he actually forgot to send intelligence of his intentions to Lieutenant Glenie, then serving in the entrenchments. Certain it is, that this officer first received the alarming and unexpected news, from one of his own gunners; and as he and his artillerymen would have been inevitably destroyed, had they attempted to move by day-light, taking counsel from his intrepidity alone, he determined to assume an appearance of unusual confidence. Accordingly, the fire was renewed on all points and directions with redoubled vigour; and by enfilading their works; he so occupied the attention of the garrison, who luckily were



not aware of his critical situation; that he could, and would have taken the fort itself had he possessed but a few soldiers to assume the appearance of heads of columns.

A retreat being now the only course left him to pursue, he contrived to effect his escape in such a judicious manner, that he carried off every man belonging to his own corps; and marching with unexampled celerity, through woods, across fastnesses, and over rivers, arrived at head quarters, to the utter astonishment of all; who supposing that he had been sacrificed in order to ensure the safety of the troops, of course had predicted, that the whole of the artillery squad was either killed or taken prisoners.

No sooner did intelligence of this gallant affair, which displayed equal skill and fortitude, arrive in England, than the late Marquis Townshend, a brave man himself, and the constant friend and patron of merit in others, as a public mark of his esteem, instantly transferred the unknown object of this unsolicited favour, from the artillery to the engineers, which circumstance, together with the reasons annexed, were notified in the London Gazette.

It appears from a list of promotions found on his table at his death, that in 1779, Mr. Glenie was nominated one of the "thirty Practitioner Engineers," and "second Lieutenant;" he was afterwards advanced to be first Lieutenant, which, estimating by comparative rank, placed him in a respectable station.

Meanwhile, the love of military glory, and the memory of his late achievement, had not obliterated, or even lessened for a moment, that fervour in the cause of science, which ever animated his bosom. The *veteris vestigia flammæ* still burned with unceasing ardour.

He had luckily become acquainted with Baron Mascres, and to him he now transmitted a variety of important papers, on the most abstruse subjects. These were read before the Royal Society, and he was actually admitted a member, like Dr. Franklin, without being subject to any fees, and not only without

his own solicitation, but even without his knowledge: for he was then serving in America.

On his return to England, Mr. Glenie found that his fame had preceded him, and he was now received every where with attention and respect. About this same period he appears to have married: the maiden name of his wife was Miss Mary Anne Locke, whose father, for a considerable time, occupied the respectable office of Store-Keeper at Portsmouth. It is not a little remarkable, that this gentleman had five daughters, who became the wives of five officers, all of whom were Scotsmen. By this lady, who is still alive, he had three children, two of whom survive their father, and both occupy honourable and advantageous posts under Government.

At length in 1783, the late Marquis, then Viscount Townshend was obliged to resign the high and respectable post of Master-General of the Ordnance, a station of considerable emolument, and most extensive patronage, which he had held during ten years. His lordship was succeeded by Charles, Duke of Richmond, Lenox, and Aubigny, a nobleman, who in the course of a pertinacious opposition to the American war, had evinced no inconsiderable talents for debate; he had also acquired a high degree of popularity both in England and Ireland, by first promulgating the idea of annual parliaments and universal suffrage. Having seen the navy of England, in 1779, reduced to the afflicting necessity of taking refuge in the Bristol Channel, from the combined fleets of France and Spain, which had menaced the dock-yard of Plymouth and insulted the whole coast; he determined on preventing such a disgrace in future. Accordingly, instead of augmenting our ships, and creating a new nursery for our seamen, his Grace conceived the romantic idea of fortifying all our naval arsenals and rendering every important maritime station inaccessible to the assaults either of any single power, or combined naval force whatsoever. But his Grace had scarcely conceived his plan when, in consequence of the retreat of the ministry of that day, he was succeeded by his noble predecessor and rival.—

Yet, by a new and sudden change, when Mr. Pitt came into power, the Duke was reinstated ; and actually held his former distinguished station during a long period of full twelve years. Being now firmly seated in power, and possessing the full confidence of a young, bold, eloquent, and able minister, he determined to carry all his projects into immediate execution. His Grace commenced, with due respect for official forms : accordingly he first assembled a board of officers and engineers, and with no great difficulty obtained a pretty general but not unanimous acquiescence to his dictates. It was not at all surprising that these gentlemen, some of whom were doubtless interested in the question, should advocate works of this description : but it astonished the public greatly, when certain sea-officers of considerable rank and character afforded their countenance to a plan calculated, in the first instance, to render the royal navy entirely unnecessary ; and which even if declared useful in a certain limited degree, by swallowing up the disposable funds of the nation, would ultimately preclude its encrease and even its employment.

A little anterior to this, Mr. Glenie, as has already been mentioned, became first a husband and then a father.

Some difficulties having occurred, about this period in the construction of \* Fort Monkton, and the neighbouring lines, on the part of his superior officers, the aid of Mr. Glenie is said to have been invoked, and he immediately obviated them all, with a facility that astonished every one. This event, as he was accustomed to observe, proved on the whole disserviceable to him ; for if it added to his reputation, it at the same produced both jealousy and envy on the part of those under whom he was destined to serve.

During the second administration of the Duke of Richmond at the Board of Ordnance, he paid great attention to the subject of this narrative ; who, like himself, was a fellow of the Royal Society. He had read the papers addressed to the

\* The writer of this article has just been told by a field-officer of artillery, that these works could never withstand the impetus of the tide, until Mr. Glenie contrived, by *dove-tailing* the stone work, to render it capable of contending with the utmost efforts of the ocean.

President, and seized every opportunity of honouring and distinguishing him both in public and private. His Grace frankly and frequently acknowledged that he was more indebted to Mr. James Glenie, than to all his reading, for his knowledge of the principles of the art of fortification; and so far did he at one time carry his admiration, that he deigned to designate himself as "his pupil." What a rare opportunity for advancement would this have afforded to a servile spirit? How few officers of engineers could have resisted the blandishments, and caresses, and seductions of a Master-General of the Ordnance? But the mind of Glenie was formed in no ordinary or vulgar mould; and on his opinion being demanded, he respectfully, but firmly declared himself in direct opposition to the new scheme of fortifications. The Duke, having obstinately and unavailingly persisted in his conversion, he then communicated confidentially to his Grace, that in his own private judgment his projects were in express opposition to all the rules of the art of war; and he supported this doctrine by a familiar recurrence to all the great masters both in ancient and modern times.

It is not here meant to convey any idea of disrespect to the memory of the nobleman in question, to whom the writer of this memoir, when a boy, deemed it an honour to be known. His Grace possessed great and rare qualifications; but it must be frankly owned, that towards the latter part of his life, he was unfortunately smitten with a military *mania*, highly detrimental to the best and dearest interests of his country. One of his opponents in parliament, indeed, was accustomed to characterise him as a new kind of "Uncle Toby," who conveyed his queries in casemates, where detached data were formed so as to resemble advanced works, and who never picked his teeth without having recourse to a palisado!

In 1785, the Master General's grand plan was at length submitted to parliamentary inspection, and in the succeeding session brought forward and bolstered up by the rare eloquence and extensive influence of Mr. Pitt, then *Premier*. Supported by such weight and interest, there can be but little doubt that

the forty or fifty millions required for the execution of such gigantic projects would have been readily granted, but for the intervention of Mr. Glenie; and how that was obtained and brought into action, will be here detailed in print for the first time.

The lieutenant had always been attached to the Marquis Townshend, who was his early patron, and had voluntarily and readily signalised his merits by a rare and very flattering exertion of authority. This nobleman was now in the shade, while his rival, the Duke of Richmond, basked in the sunshine of power; but if his new, extraordinary, and expensive speculations could be but once set aside, certain ruin and disgrace would, it was supposed, inevitably ensue. The late Mr. Courtenay, who with great wit, or at least great facetiousness, united considerable talents, and was the confidential friend and secretary of the Ex-Master General, knowing the declared opinion of Mr. Glenie, determined to make him an instrument, not only for the advancement of the noble lord and himself; but also for the advantage of the state. He accordingly invited this officer to his own house for a few days; and he was never permitted to leave it until he had composed that famous pamphlet, which produced at one and the same time, the safety of his native country, and his own individual ruin!

This work, entitled, "A Short Essay," soon engaged, and at length wholly occupied the public attention; for it was connected with a branch of expenditure which threatened a new national debt, nearly as formidable as that which had lately been created by the American war. In this far-famed publication, which passed through several editions, he demonstrated that extensive lines produce prolonged weakness, not strength: that fortifications serve but to invite the enemy into a foreign country, and furnish him after his arrival with the most effectual means of becoming master of it; and that the troops cooped up within these chains of redoubts\*, would be far

\* A body of 22,000 soldiers was required for Portsmouth and Plymouth alone.

more formidable, as an active and moveable force, against an invading enemy. He recommended the navy as the most natural and most efficient defence of Great Britain; and he concluded by maintaining that this country must inevitably lose both the East and the West Indies, with her naval superiority. After a careful investigation of the sums intended to be laid out by the then Master-General of the Ordnance, he clearly proved, by a correct estimate, that they would exceed the whole capital required for building a new and complete fleet, superior to that of any nation upon earth! How far he was correct in his ideas, let the succeeding war of 1793, demonstrate: for during its commencement and progress every thing was achieved by a superior maritime force. By its means, we were enabled to beat, and even to annihilate the navies of France, Spain, and Holland; to sweep every sea in both hemispheres of every hostile force; to carry the terror of the British arms to the shores of the Mediterranean, as well as to the distant Egypt; and finally to conclude the war by the decisive victory of Waterloo!

The Duke instantly took the field in person, and published a bold, but inefficient reply to a dissertation, which to mathematical exactitude superadded a glowing and ardent enthusiasm; founded on scientific principles, it was aided, embellished, and elucidated by an able appeal to the testimony of both ancient and modern history. The effect must now appear incredible. Sisera was doomed to fall by the hands of a woman; and the Master General of the Ordnance of that day was laid prostrate, for a time, by the pen of a subaltern officer of Engineers!

This little pamphlet, strange as it may appear, proved fatal to the Duke's mighty projects; and thus by securing the wealth necessary for the equipment of our fleets, preserved the royal navy from decay, if not from destruction. Nothing could exceed the surprise and discontent exhibited by the House, on the production of his new fangled schemes. General Burgoyne, who had been consulted, boldly denied his assent; and declared the board to have been surprised into a

seeming acquiescence, by the most extravagant hypotheses. Colonel Barry, as usual, replied with keen and cutting sarcasm ; while Sheridan eminently distinguished himself on this occasion by a very able speech. After insisting on the wanton waste of wealth, he concluded by pointing out the dangers likely to accrue to the constitution "in consequence of the vast addition to the military power of the crown, arising out of a permanent system of fortifications."

The Minister, notwithstanding his popularity, found himself deserted by the country gentlemen, now both enlightened and enraged, and the *ayes* and *noes* amounting to exactly 169, the Speaker's vote instantly negatived a system at once absurd, chimerical, and extravagant!

The reputation of Lieutenant Glenie, was now assuredly in the ascendant; for such a mighty effort had never been achieved before by an obscure and almost unknown individual, even in this country ; but the day of his humiliation, as may be readily supposed, was not far off. If we are to believe the voice of fame, the great personage to whom we now allude, was not a little exasperated on the present occasion. Some allowances must indeed be made for the critical situation of a nobleman, long since deceased, but who then occupied one of the highest employments in the State. It cannot be doubted, but that the plans in question originated in the best as well as purest motives ; and yet, it was not a little mortifying to behold an officer in his own department, and under his immediate controul, not only leaguings with his political enemies, but actually exulting over him !

Mr. Glenie's noble antagonist had not been driven from power, as was expected, in consequence of his recent discomfiture. On the contrary, after being defeated on the question of "new," he actually contrived, at length, to obtain a parliamentary sanction for many of his projects, under the head of "repairs of old fortifications." Thus the Duke triumphed in his turn ; and being a man of great talents and high character, was supported during the remainder of his official career, by the whole weight of the administration of that day.

The Lieutenant, in the mean time, cannot be supposed to have slept on a *bed of roses*. He had offended his superiors, and that too in a way not to be easily forgiven. All intercourse with them was of course cut off; and every idea of promotion banished for the present from his mind. He had obtained considerable fame indeed, as an engineer, a man of letters, and a mathematician, in the course of the late controversy. But however flattering these circumstances might prove, to an ardent and enterprising mind, yet he never reaped any solid benefit from them. Those too, by whom he was now patronised, entertained but feeble expectations of being restored to office; and they were unable to afford any thing but a distant hope to their adherents.

Mr. Glenie, soon after this, happened to be sent abroad, and during a considerable period was necessarily exposed to all the dangers and inconveniences arising from colonial service and unhealthy climates. As his opinion was deemed of great weight, he also experienced frequent removals; and being entirely destitute of both patrimonial and acquired fortune, must of course have endured many personal inconveniences; for a wife and family were to be maintained out of the scanty pay of a subaltern!

At length, he is said to have consulted several distinguished leaders of opposition relative to his future conduct; and the result was a recommendation to withdraw; in addition to which he is reported to have obtained a written document from a high and respectable quarter, containing a promise of restoration and reinstatement! For the latter circumstance, to which Mr. Courtenay was declared to have been privy, the writer of this article cannot vouch, as he never saw the paper in question; but in respect to the former he entertains no doubt whatever. Accordingly, in an evil hour, this truly unfortunate officer, at length tendered his resignation; and that too at a time when he was entitled to promotion. There can be but little doubt that this was an indiscreet step!

Forsaking his profession, his friends, and his country, and relying implicitly on the *moonshine* of political promises, he now



embarked with his wife and children, as an adventurer, for British America; and either obtained, or purchased for a trifling price, a considerable tract of land in the province of New Brunswick, where his widow is actually settled at the present moment.

Soon after his arrival, he was professionally consulted by the Duke of Kent, who then occupied a high station in our portion of the Trans-Atlantic Continent, relative to the best means of preserving our remaining possessions there. His Royal Highness, who, with great zeal for the public welfare, unites the rare talent of discerning the human character, at a single glance, instantly perceived his merits, and is supposed to have obtained a report from this able engineer, in which the means of strengthening the defences of Halifax, a most important station, both on account of its dock-yard and its geographical position, were fully detailed.

Mr. Glenie, now entered on a novel scene, and was henceforth destined to act in a new character and capacity. This colony, which had been recently severed from Nova Scotia, was at that period agitated by two political parties, called the "Upper" and the "Lower Coves," from their respective places of abode. The latter were in opposition to the measures of the Governor; and he having joined them, was returned as a Representative to the House of Assembly. He had opposed the Master-General of the Ordnance; he had opposed the President of the Royal Society at home\*; and he now once more opposed "the powers that be," in a foreign and unknown land. Yet strange as this may seem, it would be difficult to attach any blame to his conduct; nay he might and possibly was actuated by the noblest motives, on all these occasions. Those who knew him best maintain that he was solely influenced by a spirit of independence, a love of propriety, and a noble contempt for injustice; it would indeed be unfair to trace the conduct of a man, who on all, and

\* Mr. Glenie was one of those who opposed Sir Joseph Banks in 1783, respecting the dismissal of Dr. Charles Hutton, then Professor of Mathematics in the Royal Military Academy of Woolwich, from the office of Corresponding-Secretary to the Royal Society. On this occasion, he acted in conjunction with Bishop Horsley, Dr. Maskelyne, the Astronomer-Royal, Mr. Maty, Sir George Shuckburgh, Mr. T. B. Holles, Baron Maseres, &c. &c.

every one of these events acted in direct hostility to his own immediate interests, to any improper source !

But if we are to give full credit for the most honourable motives to this unfortunate gentleman, what can we say of his *simplicity*, when, under these circumstances, he entered into deep speculations, and actually became a contractor for ship-timber, and masts for Government. The result will not surprise any one. He and his partner, who is said to have been a man of considerable opulence, were both ruined on this occasion ; and yet their successors, more politic, or at least more fortunate, are said to have realised a sum of nearly 100,000*l.* by the same individual project !

It thus became necessary for Mr. Glenie to leave the forests of North America, and beginning the world anew, and at an advanced period of life, to search for bread and employment in Europe. But alas ! he was now entirely forgotten, after an interval of so many eventful years. His friend, General Melville, received him with open arms ; and Mr. Courtenay was still alive indeed, but old, infirm, and about to retire from Parliament : he readily recognised, however, his merits and his services ; but he himself had been stripped of office, and had also outlived all his friends ! The subject of this memoir, however, found means to be introduced to some of those then in possession of power. Such, however, was his utter ignorance of the manners of a court, that he considered every smile and bow, on these occasions, as an acquiescence in his claims, while a slight compliment was instantly construed into an immediate pledge, for ensuring all his pretensions !

With that good-nature which has ever characterised the Earl of Chatham, this nobleman, during part of the time that he occupied the office of Master-General, is said to have retained, rather than to have employed him, as Engineer-Extraordinary. And when the East-India Company formed an establishment for its young artillery-officers, Mr. Glenie was recommended to the Court of Directors, to instruct their cadets, with a salary which, together with the emoluments, amounted to about 400*l.* per annum.

This, however, proved to be but a short glimpse of prosperity, in the long and changeable life of this extraordinary man, who was once more driven into want and obscurity, by an utter ignorance of the world and its affairs. The story shall be brief, the particulars, indeed, are not wholly known to the writer of this article, who did not become acquainted with his history, until a considerable time afterwards.

During a trial in which the famous Mrs. Clarke acted a conspicuous part, Mr. Glenie appeared as an evidence, and in consequence of the questions put by the counsel on both sides, is reported to have stated some particulars, that proved highly offensive in a certain quarter! But if he was summoned on this occasion, he was obliged to attend, and the solemnity of an oath imposed on him the obligation of telling the whole truth; if he appeared voluntarily, and of his own accord, it was the conduct of a man, who had not profited, even by the severest lessons of adversity!

Be this as it may, he was soon after informed by an official letter from the India House, that the Company had changed its plans — altered its establishment — and that his future services were dispensed with.\* All his new patrons, were from this moment deaf to his applications, and he was once more thrown on an unfeeling world, unfriended, unprotected, and unpatronised!

Soon after this, with that eagerness with which the unfortunate constantly convert hopes into realities, Mr. G. assented to a proposition on the part of a late member of parliament, to repair to Copenhagen, for the purpose of negotiating the purchase of a large plantation, with the proprietor of it, who resided in that capital. With his usual improvidence, he set out on this extraordinary mission, without any agreement as to remuneration, in the dark and gloomy month of November, 1812. The voyage proved long and boisterous, and on his return during the succeeding year, with the loss of health

\* It is but candid here to state, that Mr. Glenie, while at Croydon, could ill brook a superior in power, who in all probability, was far inferior in respect to science. His contentions on this occasion might prove disserviceable.

and strength, and spirits, his claims were proposed to be submitted to arbitration; but the referees could never agree as to the compensation to be awarded. From this voyage, and a severe concomitant illness, he never entirely recovered; it was undertaken at a time of life, when exhausted nature demands repose; and the new and recent disappointment experienced on this occasion, appeared to have completed the climax of his misfortunes.

During all these perils, adventures, and mortifications, Mr. Glenie, however, never once forgot the pursuits in which he had exhibited such precocious attainments; and these, from his early youth, to the very last moment of his existence, he fondly cherished. The limits of this narrative, will permit no other than a brief exposition of his mathematical labours.

Amidst his early campaigns in America, he cheered the solitude of the surrounding forests, and gave variety to the occupations of a military life, by a general demonstration of the "Binomial problem," which he instantly transmitted to Baron Maseres, who has inserted it in his "*Scriptores Logarithmici*."

He afterwards conveyed to the Royal Society, a demonstration of the celebrated Dr. Matthew Stewart's "42d Proposition, or 39th Theorem," which had remained without solution, and puzzled the learned during a period of sixty-five years. From the same head, in 1792, proceeded the "Antecedental Calculus, or geometrical method of reasoning, without any consideration of motion or velocity, applicable to every purpose in which Fluxions have been, or can be applied."

In 1811, was read before the Royal Society, and afterwards published in their transactions, his famous paper entitled: "Of the circle and the infinite incommensurability of its area, to the square of the diameter, or of its circumference to the diameter; together with very useful, and rapid geometrical approximations for both." In the accompanying demonstration, he has set public curiosity to rest, concerning "the squaring of the circle;" by proving the impossibility of

it: a question, which is supposed to have engaged the attention, and to have eluded the research of the illustrious Newton. This, there is reason to suppose, is the last work of any consequence, which came under his consideration.

Towards the latter end of the year 1816, Mr. Glenie retired from town, and hired apartments at Eabury House, in the vicinity of Belgrave-Place, Pimlico; to which he was partly moved by the consideration of a better air, and partly with the hope of obtaining mathematical pupils. His health, however, was now sensibly on the decline, his affairs were deranged, his wife and family were absent, and he appears to have been totally destitute of opulent friends, and powerful connexions.

In this extremity, when apparently forsaken by all the world, a female who had been a long time about the person of this aged Mathematician, remained firmly attached to her old master, and administered to all his wants and necessities. He was at length struck with an apoplexy, produced, no doubt, by care, vexation, and a dread of coming evils, and after languishing a week, he at length submitted to the common fate of mankind, on the 23d of November, 1817. His remains, accompanied to the grave by several of his friends, were interred, with a decent solemnity, in the church-yard of St. Martin's in the Fields, on Sunday the 1st of December.

Thus died, in the 67th year of his age, James Glenie, F.R.S. who, on a variety of accounts, lays claim to be considered one of the most singular and interesting characters of the present age. In person he exactly answered the description of Ulysses, by Homer. His make, and form, and strength, augured a life capable of great longevity, and likely to be extended to a century: but this was prevented by an uninterrupted series of disastrous events. His real disease, or at least the predominant and predisposing cause of his demise, doubtless originated in a broken heart!

He has been represented by some, as *irritable*, but was it possible for any nerves to have withstood the miseries of thirty years? He was deemed querulous, by others: but what

law, either moral, or municipal, precludes complaint on the part of the unfortunate :

“ *Res sacra miser.*”

Modest and unassuming in his manners ; he appeared diffident of himself ; and such was Mr. Glenie’s utter unconsciousness of the extent and peculiarity of his own powers, that he actually deemed oratory one of his leading qualifications ! Simplicity and credulity formed the ordinary features of his character : the man who had supplied the omissions of \* Vauban and pointed out the errors of Hannibal †, was easily imposed upon by any artful tale. The last year of his life was spent in a manner worthy of a philosopher. He studied the rules of his ancient profession in Polybius ; and was accustomed to read daily a certain portion of the Greek Testament, by means of which, he corrected the text of the English version.

Although entirely destitute of the gifts of fortune, yet he possessed a native independence of mind, together with a certain sturdiness of character, which approached the *antique*, and was doubtless a man whose talents and resolution rendered him worthy of a better fate.

On a great and trying occasion, like Publius Horatius Cocles, he stood in the breach, but his fate was different from that of the gallant Roman : the one was gratefully rewarded with a gift of land, and the grant of a statue ; while the other was suffered to pine during the latter portion of his life in penury and affliction. He fell a victim to certain peculiarities in his own character, as well as in those of the times in which he lived. His misfortunes, indeed, were produced by those very qualities that not unfrequently elevate others to wealth, to fame, and to honours of all kinds !

As a Geometrician, his talents must be allowed to have been of the first order. He was familiar with the abstruse branches of the sublime mathematics ; he carefully selected and uni-

\* See a comparison between Vauban’s, and the customary mode of fortification.

† See a dissertation prefixed to a work dedicated to the Duke of York, by the late Dr. Wm. Thomson, (author of the “ Continuation of the History of Philip II.”) intended for the use of the military school at High Wycombe.

formly succeeded in the demonstration of the most difficult problems ; these alone, he would condescend to encounter.— His operation, by “ approximation,” is not only new of itself ; but it exhibits a more rapid mode of calculation than any former discovery. In short, he aspired to, and ought doubtless to be deemed an *inventor*, in that science, to which he had consecrated his earliest, and his best days.

Such was the general deference paid to a rare union of talents and misfortunes in his person, that his friends not only voluntarily contributed to alleviate his wants, but also concurred unanimously in assigning him that military rank, which, but for his wayward fortune, coupled with a variety of strange, unexpected, and singular occurrences, would have been long since conferred on him. Accordingly, he was generally known and addressed by the appellation of “ Colonel ;” and it must be fairly owned, that if science such as his be justly appreciated, he would have wielded the baton of a general, both with credit to himself, and his country.

No. X.



RIGHT HONOURABLE GEORGE PONSONBY,

EX-LORD CHANCELLOR OF IRELAND, AND KNIGHT OF THE SHIRE  
FOR THE COUNTY OF WICKLOW, IN THE IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

**M**ANY difficulties must necessarily occur in respect to a genealogy that boasts of seven or eight centuries of antiquity; that affects to unravel the clue of descent amidst the proscriptions and miseries of civil war; or boldly refers to the annals of a foreign country, both for authenticity, and illustration. Notwithstanding these trifling perplexities, which have not been at all diminished by the interested complacency of modern heralds; the Ponsonbys are supposed to have come originally from Picardy. As that province is at this present moment one of the poorest districts of France, and at no time was ever remarkable for its wealth or fertility, it is but little wonder that it furnished many adventurers who were eager to share in the glory and the spoils held out by the Norman expedition



to England. One of the family, is said to have accompanied Duke William to this country; and after the decisive battle, which conferred the crown on that enterprising chief, he was of course provided for among the rest of his followers. Accordingly, the manor of Ponsonby, at Hale, in Cumberland, which fell to his lot, gave both "a local habitation and a name" to himself and his descendants. One of these, Sir John Ponsonby, either being of an adventurous spirit, like his ancestor, or preferring the rich lands of Ireland, to the bleak valleys and barren mountains of the north, accompanied the Protector's army thither, and like many others of his protestant countrymen, carved out a rich succession for himself, from among the estates of the Irish Catholics, a multitude of whom at this period, were punished with confiscation, or proscribed under the names of "notorious delinquents," "rebels," "freebooters," &c. and their estates disposed of, among what are still termed in that country, "the Cromwellians." Some years since, the rental possessed by this family, in the sister isle, was estimated at 30,000*l.* per annum, and it has doubtless increased greatly since that period.

Such a mass of property, in a country so situate, superadded to character, talents, and favourable opportunities, could not fail to confer honour as well as riches. Accordingly two peerages\*, the Speakership† of the Irish House of Commons, followed some years after by the Chancellorship, and an alliance with the Ducal Houses of Devonshire, and St. Albans, as well as the noble ones of Spencer, Grey, Westmorland, Shannon, Kilworth, Loftus, and Mountmorris, have all contributed to render this a rich, powerful, and distinguished family.

Mr. Ponsonby, the subject of the present narrative, was born on the 5th of March, 1755. He was the third son of the Honourable John Ponsonby, brother to the late, and uncle to the present Earl, of Besborough, by Lady Elizabeth Cavendish,

\* Besborough and Imokilly.

† The Honourable John Ponsonby, Speaker of the Irish House of Commons, was elected in 1760; in 1769, he was succeeded by Edmund Sexton Pery, Esq.

daughter of William, third, and great aunt to the present, Duke of Devonshire.

Of the father, it may be here necessary to make some mention. Having been bred to the bar, he succeeded Mr. Boyle in the chair of the Irish House of Commons, at a period when that office, however honourable, could not be called lucrative; for we find the sum of 500*l.* only, voted to the Speaker "to enable him to maintain the state and dignity of his office." The fees, however, amounted to an equal sum; and an augmentation took place, in 1761, so as to make the whole 2000*l.*; which was doubled in 1765.

Soon after the accession of George III. we find the name of the elder Mr. Ponsonby among those of the "Lords Justices;" he was nominated to that station no fewer than six times. This gentleman had the boldness to refuse to certify a money-bill from the Privy Council, a circumstance that rendered him extremely popular, as this mode was even then deemed by some, to be unconstitutional, and was afterwards abrogated.

On the demise of Lord Shannon, his son and heir who had married the Speaker's daughter, joined his father-in-law, and the Ponsonbys; and such was the extent of their joint influence, that they not only overcame the rival house of Beresford, but in some measure counterbalanced the royal prerogative itself, powerful as it then was in Ireland. He resigned his seat as Speaker in 1769, during the vice-royalty of Lord Townsend; for an address having been voted by the Commons of Ireland to that nobleman, contrary to his decided opinion, he requested leave of the House, to withdraw from the chair, that he might not be under the necessity of acting inconsistently with his own avowed sentiments, by carrying up, and reading a vote of approbation to that nobleman, against which he had argued strenuously in a committee. Notwithstanding this, the Ex-Speaker was said at one time, to have enjoyed "the patronage of all Ireland;" this doubtless savours of exaggeration; but it is not too much to affirm, that

he possessed, and for a long time exercised a greater degree of influence than any commoner, nay, than any peer had ever done before his time, in the government of the sister kingdom.

His younger son, Mr. George Ponsonby, of whom we are now to treat, after receiving the first rudiments of his education, under the paternal roof, was put to a public school, where he obtained a considerable stock of classical learning. He then repaired to the University of Cambridge, and as he neither possessed the prospect of a peerage, nor a great estate, he was not dazzled by coronets, or distracted by the hopes of future magnificence, from the pursuit of knowledge. The same circumstances, rendered a profession absolutely necessary. Actuated by an honourable ambition, he therefore entered himself of one of the Inns of Court, as this was deemed the readiest and shortest road to preferment. Nor was he mistaken in the sequel, as all the honours attendant on the most successful career, were at length fairly won and enjoyed by him.

In the year 1780, Mr. Ponsonby received what is termed a "call" to the Irish bar, but he did not for some time distinguish himself either in the Four Courts at Dublin, or during the assizes. He at this period, seems to have turned his mind chiefly to pursuits seemingly incompatible: politics, and hunting. Yet, he thus early, not only contrived to have a seat, but also in good time to be a leader in parliament. Mr. Ponsonby, however, did not altogether neglect his professional interests, for when the Duke of Portland was appointed Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, in 1782, we find him obtaining a silk gown. He was soon after nominated, first counsel to the commissioners of the revenue, an office which was then deemed of considerable importance, both in an honorary, and pecuniary point of view, the salary and emoluments being estimated at 1200*l.* per annum. As many important prosecutions were undertaken by this board, a barrister of no more than two or three years standing, must assuredly have possessed considerable talents, as well as some little practical knowledge, before

he could have fulfilled the duties annexed to his appointment with ability and discretion. But even then, he was characterised for a species of constitutional indolence, which, however, did not wholly preclude in his, as in many other cases, an extraordinary attachment to, and an unceasing exertion in the sports of the field. He would at any time, have rather unkennelled a fox, and contended for the brush at the end of the chase, than have prosecuted a poor smuggler to destruction, and employed the harpies of the law, in driving the unhappy wife and innocent children from a cottage to a jail !

During the short administration of the Duke of Portland, consisting only of a few months, Mr. Ponsonby continued, as has been already suggested, to mingle pleasure with business. Anterior to this period too, he resolved on marriage\*, and on that occasion, made choice of Lady Mary Butler, eldest daughter of the late Brinsley, second Earl of Lanesborough.

By the sudden recall of the nobleman alluded to above, our young barrister was deprived of a patron, and in the person of the new Viceroy, he soon experienced an enemy. The late Marquis of Buckingham had been selected by Mr. Pitt, to govern the sister kingdom in a new manner, and on new principles. It had been the constant policy of England, to regulate that unfortunate country by means of parties and great families, and it was now decreed that the house of Besborough should give way to the house of Waterford. The new Viceroy accordingly commenced his administration, by making a variety of changes ; and among the rest, Mr. Ponsonby was dismissed from office, for the express purpose of appointing Mr. Marcus Beresford, a cadet of that powerful family, whose star was now in the ascendant, his successor. On this occasion, there could be no objection either to the age or talents of Mr. Ponsonby ; for his successful rival was still younger and less informed than himself.

It has been said that persecution produces martyrs ; and patriots are doubtless frequently confirmed, and sometimes

\* This took place in May, 1781.

actually made by the same means. The scanty fortune of a younger brother could but ill supply the loss of such an income, more especially to a married man, who had formed an establishment suitable to a revenue which he had been taught to deem permanent, while he was already hailed as a father by an offspring that looked up to him for succour and support. His wounded pride also took the alarm: for he could not behold a hostile family triumphant, and that too partly at the expence of his own, without the keenest feelings arising out of the palpable wrong, and injustice, to which he now considered himself as subjected.

This happy occurrence, for so it actually proved, however mortifying it might at first appear, finally produced a great and beneficial change in his character and conduct. Greatly to his honour, he now determined on a new course of life, and sacrificing his indolence on the shrine of his ambition, he resolved to change his career of pleasure for pursuits more worthy of his talents. Accordingly his stud of hunters began to disappear by degrees, and the courts of law to be visited more frequently than the dog-kennel. Nor was this all, for he resolved to qualify himself for excelling in his profession; and accordingly by intense study, he soon proved what a man of parts is capable of, who is not afraid to do violence to his very nature, when it is averse from every thing bordering on toil and constraint. Industry, added to the means derived from a masculine and correct understanding, soon rendered Mr. Ponsonby an able and accomplished lawyer, in a country where profound and technical skill are not deemed altogether necessary, as with us. His family connexions still respectable and numerous, although no longer powerful, soon pointed him out as a rising man, and business now flowed in apace. His silk gown, which still remained, gave him both precedence and consequence; and his income, in a short time, greatly exceeded what it had been when he looked up to his official gains, as a certain and assured resource. Nor was this all, for while he displayed a large portion of forensic eloquence, he deter-

mined, at the same time, to acquire and exhibit a very different species of oratory : that adapted for the senate.

In a short time he accordingly began to be considered a speaker of the best promise in the Irish House of Commons. The torrent of his eloquence bore down all before him. The Viceroy in him found a redoubtable enemy, whom he himself had armed with indignation and resentment. Acting on the popular side, and on public principles, he now thundered against corruption ; he boldly disclosed all the real or supposed crimes and errors of administration ; he aggravated the complaints which were then both loud and general, and soon began to be deemed a proper person to lead the host of opposition to battle. They were uniformly defeated, indeed, in the division, but some difficulty existed as to answering their arguments. Meanwhile, our young member broadly and palpably asserted that the government patronage, in that House, had increased, was increasing, and ought to be diminished ; that the expences occasioned by this fatal system had exceeded all former bounds ; and that out of three hundred members, there were one hundred and ten who enjoyed places and pensions under the crown. He was both pointed and personal too, in respect to the nobleman who now presided over the destinies of his native country. “ Our wrongs,” exclaimed he, “ instead of being alleviated have been cruelly multiplied by the new Viceroy ! He has united injustice to corruption ; he has aggravated our former sufferings and mortifications, by superadding fourteen new placemen to the number, already too great, which existed before his time ; he has created new offices for his partisans in this assembly, by encreasing the number of members at the public boards ; and to accumulate his patronage he has subdivided among two or more, the duties and salaries of offices, which, until his time, had been filled by one single individual.”

Nor was it long before Mr. Ponsonby attained a complete triumph over that nobleman, who had unplumed him in order to decorate a rival with his spoils. On the King's alarming illness in 1789, both kingdoms were overwhelmed with grief

and consternation at such a melancholy and unexpected event. In England, however, it was determined to restrict and limit the powers of the Regent, and that too in such a manner, and to such a degree, as, in the opinion of opposition, to render the office painful if not odious to the Heir-Apparent. His very right, indeed, to the exercise of its important functions was questioned by the premier of that day; and he was fully supported and borne out by a great majority of the British Parliament, in the plan so ably laid down, and so eloquently enforced by him, notwithstanding the remonstrances of Mr. Fox, and the then powerful party associated beneath his banners.

It was far different in Ireland; for there the minority, after a short struggle, became triumphant. Mr. Ponsonby, now at the head of it, aided by the powerful talents and co-operation of Mr. Grattan, in the first place, maintained with equal boldness and success, the exclusive right of Ireland on the suspension of the royal functions, to nominate and appoint her own Regent, without any reference to the conduct of Great Britain, on that occasion. This doctrine, indeed, arose out of, and was immediately connected with the great question of national independence, which had been so recently broached, maintained, and acquired. The Irish legislature, on this occasion, appeared resolute to support its rights, and exercise all the functions immediately connected with them. This national spirit was accompanied with another of a different kind. The leaders of all parties were eager to express their personal attachment, in order to engage the attention and the gratitude of their future sovereign, by thus acting in direct opposition to his father's chief minister. The Prince of Wales was accordingly invited to assume the Regency of the kingdom of Ireland, unfettered and unclogged with those restrictions which had been imposed in England; and as the disappointed Viceroy chose to withdraw from the government, rather than sanction a measure so hostile both to his feelings and instructions, a deputation was selected from both Lords and Commons, which had orders to proceed to Carlton-House, for the

express purpose of communicating this singular and extraordinary event.

But the sudden and happy restoration of the king, instantly created no small terror and dismay among many of those who had advocated the claims of the Prince of Wales, in England and Ireland. Some in both countries were dismissed from office; some chose to atone for their zeal by the most humiliating concessions; while those who had stood unshaken in the ministerial phalanx were caressed, rewarded, and advanced.

Mr. Ponsonby remained firm and unmoved; and while new rigours seemed to be preparing for his countrymen, he came forward at the head of a small but faithful band, and attacked all those violent measures which he foresaw and prophesied, could only lead to a general convulsion. Yet, such was the fascinating eloquence and extensive influence of Mr. Pitt, that when the rebellion burst forth in 1798, an attempt was actually made to confound the leaders of the opposition with the chiefs of the insurgents. But the character and conduct of Mr. Ponsonby alike defied distrust and misapprehension. Faithful to his purpose, and constantly at his post, he denounced certain crimes that according to him were perpetrated, and that too with impunity, in the very capital.

At length an union with Great Britain was projected, the apparent aim of which, was to amalgamate the interests of the sister island, by means of indissoluble ties; to close the bleeding wounds of Ireland by a liberal spirit of conciliation and concession; while by a community of interests, privileges, and enjoyments, both nations were to be rendered more happy and more powerful. But Mr. Ponsonby, and most of those with whom he usually acted, objected to the proposed scheme. They wished, indeed, to see a speedy period put to the distresses of their bleeding country; but they were averse from sacrificing what they termed her independence. They could not contemplate the abolition of her separate legislature without pain; and they deprecated so great and important a change, as an evil, the ad-



vantages of which were in some measure speculative, while the ruin was certain and unequivocal. We shall say nothing as to the means resorted to for effecting this great object, many of which ought not to be praised; but, perhaps, on the other hand, it may have tended greatly to the strength of both islands, by a fortunate combination of the common interests and resources of the whole empire.

At length, after a long and powerful struggle, a new order of things took place; the opposition became the ministry; and the treasury bench in Ireland, as well as in England, received new occupants. This great change was produced in 1806, in consequence of a singular and unexpected coalition between Lord Grenville and Mr. Fox. On this occasion, the extraordinary merits and long services of Mr. Ponsonby were not forgotten; for he was made a member of his Majesty's Privy Council in Ireland, and at the same time received the seals as Lord Chancellor\*; while his elder brother was created an English peer.† Soon after this, his friend Mr. Curran, who like himself, had advocated the independence of Ireland, as well as defended a number of their countrymen, accused of rebellion, in the criminal courts of Ireland, also acquired the official appellation of Right Honourable, and obtained the appointment of Master of the Rolls. The Foxo-Grenville, or second coalition administration as it was now called, did not, however, prove of long duration. It exhibited undoubtedly a constellation of eminent men, all of whom were highly gifted; but with an exception to the abolition of the slave trade, which merits no ordinary degree of praise, they achieved but little for the benefit of their country. This proceeded, perhaps, from two circumstances; in the first place, they remained but a few months in office; and in the next, they were never able to obtain the entire confidence and cordial co-operation of the king. Much good, however, was projected for Ireland, and this cabinet is said to have actually retired in consequence of an attempt to concede certain claims

\* The appointment took place March 25, 1806.

† William Brabazon, Lord Ponsonby, of Imokilly, March 13, 1806.

to the people of that portion of the empire which have since been realised by them, in consequence of the liberal and well-timed adoption of their successors.

On the retreat of "all the Talents," as they were termed, in ridicule, by their opponents, Mr. Ponsonby, who had not been ennobled on this occasion, withdrew also. The pension granted him amounted to 4,000*l.* per ann.: and was certainly, as observed by his opponents, a large remuneration for official services of such short duration; but on the other hand, it ought not to be forgotten that he had relinquished his professional practice; and that it had become impossible for him to return to the bar of that court in which he had presided with no small share of ability and dignity, as the first judge in Ireland.

Mr. Ponsonby now repaired to England, and as the death of Mr. Fox had deprived the country party of a leader, he was chosen to command the battery on the opposition bench, in order to direct its thunder against a more numerous phalanx drawn up in battle array, on the right hand of the Speaker.

His talents as a leader were doubtless conspicuous, in addition to which, he had assuredly attained no inconsiderable degree of skill by long practice in Ireland. He was connected by blood with most of the great Whig families; while by his late preferment and recent fall, he was endeared to all those lately dismissed from office. He had been the friend of Mr. Fox, and was nearly allied to Lord Grey, who had just resigned the high station of Secretary of State, and who had now become a joint leader in the House of Lords with Lord Grenville, in consequence of the union of his niece\* with that nobleman.

The last session of the present parliament proved one of the busiest and most important during the whole course of Mr. Ponsonby's political career. On January 28, 1816, when the address was moved to the Prince Regent, Mr. Ponsonby rea-

\* Mary Elizabeth Ponsonby, who married Charles the present, and second Earl Grey, Nov. 10, 1794.

dily concurred, so far as respected the terms; but he, at the same time, considered the speech from the throne in no other light than as a production on the part of ministers for the time being. "These ministers," added he, "have promised to adopt measures of economy; but was it not notorious, that in express opposition to these promises, they had resisted every proposition for this purpose? Was it not equally true, that they had decidedly opposed every exertion to save unnecessary expences; and regularly resisted one proposal of retrenchment after another, till they were, unfortunately for themselves, obliged by the votes of the House, with the greatest reluctance, to cut down those official establishments, which they would have otherwise strenuously clung to?"

"As to the distresses of the nation, they were said to be temporary, and he would hope, rather than admit, that to a certain extent, this was true. Last session ministers had asserted that the revenues of the country were in a flourishing condition; and now, when the sinking fund had proved inefficient, and our resources had totally failed, it was asserted, that all this had arisen merely from temporary causes. But had the return of peace produced this mass of evils? The real cause of our distress was the immense debt and taxation of the country. It was by these, that the people had been so dreadfully borne down as they were at the present moment.

"As for myself, I am confident that no man can charge me with having given any countenance to the inflammatory designs lately hinted at; but this I know, that the only way to re-obtain the confidence of the people, is for this house to do its duty." He concluded a long and able speech, by moving an amendment, the substance of which was, "that a prompt and effectual reduction of the military and every other branch of our expenditure, must be looked upon by His Majesty's faithful commons, as the first step to relieve the sufferings and redress the grievances, of which the people so justly complain."

Mr. Ponsonby, however, agreed in the address to the Prince Regent, unanimously voted the same day on another

account, "although he doubted whether the fracture in the glass of His Royal Highness's carriage, had been produced by bullets, as stated in evidence by Lord James Murray; "this circumstance, however," he added, "was of importance only, as to the guilt of the person by whom the crime was committed, and could not have the smallest influence, as to the decision of the House."

On February 4, 1817, Mr. Ponsonby supported the Warrington address, complaining of the "obstructions in petitioning." The distresses of all classes of the community were unparalleled in the history of the country, "nothing could be more dangerous," he added, "than to give the people an opportunity of stating, that their petitions were not suffered to reach that house." "Their sacred and indubitable right of petitioning should be preserved, by the faithful representatives of the country."

Mr. Ponsonby was nominated one of the members of the Secret Committee, respecting "certain meetings and dangerous combinations;" and the report in which he appears to have concurred, was presented to the house by Mr. Bathurst, on February 19. Notwithstanding this, he actually resisted the Habeas Corpus Suspension Act. On that occasion, he had to shelter himself, he said, "from the charge of imbecility, on the part of his friends, as well as to combat the hostility of his political enemies." He confessed, however, that he had been induced, in some measure, to alter his opinions. He "believed the powers vested in the government of the country at present sufficient to keep the peace of the country, without the measure now meditated, and one main ground for that belief was, the fact communicated by the Lord Advocate, of having seized on the central committee of union, at Glasgow." He entertained a reverence for the law of *Habeas Corpus*, almost amounting to superstition, — he believed it the great bulwark of British liberty, — that which brought home to the poorest man in the country, the value of the British constitution.

“ If it was to be suspended on ordinary events, this practice would become a part of the customary legislation of the country. On all former occasions, when the power of *arbitrary arrest* and detention was given, there was either foreign war, a disputed succession, or a rebellion existing in the nation. The present was merely a conspiracy of famine, acted on by malignity, and the circumstance of its being confined to the lower orders, was, in reality, the greatest argument against the measure, for they might remain month after month, and year after year, in dungeons, without the House knowing any thing of it. He knew too well, also, that in former instances of suspension, men as innocent as any in that House, had been long kept in gaols.” Mr. Ponsonby was one of the minority of 98, who voted against this measure. He also opposed the “Seditious Meetings Bill,” and voted as well as spoke against it.

On March 4, 1817, Mr. Ponsonby brought in a bill, both very useful and necessary, to prevent the renewal of certain civil and military commissions on the demise of the crown; in March he supported his friend Sir John Newport in the motion for retrenching the fees of the courts of justice; and in a debate a few days after, respecting the Welch judges, he maintained that the functions of chief justice of Chester, and attorney-general were incompatible. The last time this gentleman spoke in the House, was to recommend to His Majesty’s ministers to alleviate the general distress, as that, and that alone, had produced any thing in the shape of tumult or disaffection.

His health, however, now began to be sensibly on the decline, and although his mind, perhaps, had lost somewhat of its original tone and vigour, yet to the last, his intellects were to the full, as clear and comprehensive as ever.

During a succeeding debate in the House of Commons, the subject of this article was seized with a paralytic affection, which proved fatal, and lingered for a few days, during which regular bulletins were published by the attending physician.

Thus died, on July 8, 1817, at his house in Curzon Street, Mayfair, London, the Right Hon. George Ponsonby, the ostensible leader of the opposition against the present ministry.—Like the great Earl of Chatham, he perished at his post, having been struck with a mortal disorder, while occupying his well-known seat in St. Stephen's Chapel. But the seizure did not take place, as in the case of that great patriot, while actually speaking, for he was then listening with his accustomed patience to the detail of a subject, in which he took no part.

As a lawyer, while a simple barrister, he was deemed respectable in point of talents, rather than deep in technical knowledge; indeed his early attachment to the sports of the field, added to his political pursuits at a latter period, precluded that continuity of research, and those laborious investigations which are necessary to celebrity: law is a jealous mistress, and will not admit of a rival. He possessed all the qualities, however, and a sufficiency of professional knowledge to render him a good Chancellor; yet time was not given to acquire a name for himself, or perform any thing essential for his country, in that capacity.

As a political leader in Ireland, he achieved the two great objects of his early ambition, which were to render a Viceroy, who seems to have exhibited somewhat of personal hostility against him, unpopular; and to drive the rival house of Beresford from office. In England he was less fortunate, for he never could make any sensible impression on his political enemies, and had the mortification to behold a new set of principles broached, which aimed at the destruction of the influence of that distinguished portion of the aristocracy over whose interests he for a time had presided, to their entire satisfaction. In this capacity, he was praised by both sides of the house, for his dignity, candour, and decorum; but above all for his moderation. There were others, however, who wished for a bolder leader. Some of his adherents were pleased to call his moderation, tameness; and when the Minister was attacked on the old subject of patronage, rotten boroughs, &c. Mr. Ponsonby was blamed by them for having covered, instead of cutting off the

retreat of the enemy. But they did not reflect, that this subject acted as a two-edged sword, and that the foe could not have been conquered at this precise moment without wounding his best and dearest friends by the same fatal stroke.

As a statesman, Mr. Ponsonby opposed the war with France and the union with Ireland, and it has never been doubted that his opinions on both occasions were honourable, conscientious, and disinterested. He was also one of that Committee which unanimously approved of the report that led to the suspension of the Habeas Corpus Bill, but in respect to that measure, he afterwards thought proper to retract his vote, and change his opinion.

Mr. Ponsonby's eloquence participated of his character.—His address was neat, gentle, and elegant. His language and manners, courtly and polished. He never was assiduous to cultivate the good-will, or applause of the multitude, and therefore never spoke, while in England, from a love of popularity. His good taste, precluded declamation; his oratory, accordingly, partook rather of the simple than the flowery; and altho' he avoided a figurative diction, he yet arrived at his object by a circuitous, rather than a direct course.

Neatness and simplicity constitute the great features of his parliamentary speeches; his language was plain and perspicuous; and he avoided those rhetorical flourishes which make no lasting impression. He was thus accounted rather solid than brilliant. Gifted with a strong understanding, he commanded respect for all he uttered; his attack was masterly and scientific, rather than bold and daring; but he chiefly excelled in a reply, on which occasion, an extensive and retentive memory, proved of eminent service. He loved to speak last, and on that occasion constantly and invariably exhibited his power and his art, in successfully refuting and exposing the arguments of his adversaries. He never took notes; and yet never missed any opening, in the arguments of an opponent; whatever was false he exposed, whatever futile, he ridiculed; and if he did not always obtain victory he generally deserved it. Long practice had given him a certain *tact*, or high degree of technical knowledge, never to be

attained without it; and his great experience proved serviceable to his party, during many a warm debate. It has been already hinted, that on one memorable occasion he provided a bridge for a retreating enemy; but it ought not to be omitted, that he also frequently pointed out a secure asylum for his friends, by hovering on the ranks of an adverse army, and covering the retreat of his own, when he found it engaged too far, for the common safety.

In respect to his Parliamentary seats, Mr. Ponsonby was first returned for a borough, over which his family was supposed to possess some controul. In the Imperial Parliament, he for a time represented Tavistock, having succeeded Lord Howick, on his becoming Earl Grey, in consequence of the demise of his father. In 1807, he was returned for the county of Cork, and previously to obtaining the Chancellorship he had been knight of the shire for the county of Wicklow, which he indeed represented at the time of his demise.

The corpse of Mr. Ponsonby was interred on July 12, in a private manner, without ceremony or ostentation, at Kensington, near London, beside the remains of his brother the first Lord Ponsonby. He has not left any male issue; his only daughter, Martha, is the wife of the Hon. Francis-Aldborough Prettie, second son of Lord Dunally, and knight of the shire for the county of Tipperary.



## No. XI.

EYLES IRWIN, Esq. M. R. I. A.

THIS gentleman having been born at Calcutta, about the year 1748, is consequently a native of the East, and his life, talents, and character, all tend to prove that virtue and abilities are not to be exactly measured by degrees of longitude and latitude, as some philosophers have pretended. His father, a native of Ireland, lived for many years, and actually died at last in the service of the East India Company, leaving several children behind him. Of these Eyles had the good fortune to be sent to England for his education; and was accordingly brought up at the school of the late Dr. Rose, of Chiswick; a venerable gentleman, who at that period, possessed a high reputation both for his learning and talents.

In 1767, when about eighteen or nineteen years of age, young Irwin became a candidate for employment in the same service as his late father; and he was accordingly nominated in due time, to a respectable situation at Madras, as a civilian. About this period, Lord Pigot, with whose melancholy catastrophe every one connected with the East is acquainted, happened to be Governor; and Mr. Irwin, who was patronised by him, of course took part with that much injured nobleman, who was dispossessed of his power and imprisoned by that very military force which ought to have supported him. In consequence of his exertions on this occasion, he was soon after suspended by those who had usurped the government; and it is sufficiently obvious that *suspension*, under such circumstances, is but another name for ruin!

Inflamed with indignation, and determined to make an immediate appeal to his employers in Leadenhall-street, while he transmitted his complaints, by the usual means, to the Court

of Directors, he himself determined to take a new, or at least a very unusual route to Europe. On this romantic, but dangerous occasion, he was also charged with a secret dispatch from his friend the Ex-Governor.

Accordingly, having embarked in 1777, at Madras, with several Englishmen, he landed at Mocha, after a tedious passage of eight weeks. On the 16th of April, they sailed for the port of Suez : but on the 7th of May, were obliged to anchor at Yambo, on the coast of Arabia, where no European vessel had ever before entered. Here they were treated with the utmost cruelty and injustice, by the old Vizier, the Vicegerent of the Sheriff of Mecca, who had invited them to land; by him they were made prisoners, and confined in a tower, above which was a haram, where the ladies belonging to the Shaik were secluded. During this period of difficulty and danger, when death itself appeared at one time inevitable, the subject of this memoir was accustomed to repeat the following passage from "Thomson's Seasons:"

" Should fate command me to the farthest verge  
Of the green earth, to distant barbarous climes,  
Rivers unknown to song ; where first the sun  
Gilds Indian mountains, or his setting beam  
Flames on the Atlantic isles, 'tis nought to me,  
Since God is ever present, ever felt,  
In the void waste as in the city full ;  
And where He vital breathes, there must be joy.

When ev'n at last, the solemn hour shall come,  
And wing my mystic flight to future worlds,  
I cheerful will obey ; there, with new powers,  
Will rising wonders sing : " &c.

At length, by means of a secret intercourse with some of the English at Mecca, the Sheriff of which was a black youth under twenty years of age; in addition to a bribe of a diamond ring, a shawl, and a piece of gold stuff to his deputy at Yambo, such of the gentlemen as were destined for Europe, actually

received permission to depart. As they were obliged to pay a very large sum for their passage to Suez, they named the vessel appointed for their conveyance, "the Boat Imposition," and set sail for that port on the 10th of June. After coasting for more than a month, they were at length deceived by the Arabians who actually carried them to Cosire, in upper Egypt, instead of the harbour they had bargained for : and there they arrived, July 9, 1777.

Here again our English travellers experienced a variety of exactions and impositions; but having put on their Arabian dresses, they at length departed with the Caravan, on the 7th of July. On the 31st of the same month, they enjoyed the felicity of beholding the Nile, which could not but be an agreeable sight to those who were at once weary and thirsty, having drunk up all their water, some time before.

On their approach to the town of Ghinnah, our travellers, for the first time, beheld symptoms of human industry, in the shape of cultivation; and they began to make a comparative estimate, between the beauties of the charming river, now under their eye, and that of the Thames. After travelling through a variety of grounds and gardens, they at length recognised the object of their search; and they were doubtless delighted with the prospect of obtaining some victuals, after a fast of three days' duration! Next morning they accordingly feasted on cows' milk and new bread.

Here, at Ghinnah, they experienced a new series of vexations, impositions, and delays; and had only to console themselves with the reflection, that the Vizier in "his piratical visits, continued to rob them with politeness." In urging his requests, which might be considered as so many demands, he never exceeded the bounds of good breeding; and yet he contrived to levy a contribution of silver-mounted pistols and daggers adorned with jewels; shawls of the most valuable kind; and not a few dollars! Notwithstanding all this plunder, he laughed with and rallied our travellers on their suspicions; drank their coffee without reserve; and contrived, although

against the Mahommedan law, to indulge himself with several cups full of rum !

As appearances were not satisfactory, one of the gentlemen luckily secreted wealth to the amount of about 1000*l.* by means of his servants ; while Mr. Irwin found means to conceal about 100*l.* still left in Venetians and guineas. In addition to this, he had a ruby ring of considerable value, and also a gold watch, all of which were carefully placed in an handkerchief about his waist ; while an European domestic, contrived to carry some trinkets and jewels in his sash and turban.

A variety of petty robberies soon after took place ; and on Major Hammond being requested to deliver a diamond ring, he prudently substituted a paste one ; but for a silver mug no substitute could be found ! Their trunks and packages were now examined, and plunder was " the order of the day." A box containing dispatches was mistaken for treasure ; and their disappointment was extreme when they beheld nothing but papers and sealing wax.

After being released from their first prison by the *Hakeem*, or Governor, they were conducted by him to his own house, and there desired to await the arrival of his master, the *Shaik Ul Arab*, in person, or at least until dispatches could be received from him. Meanwhile their entertainment was kind, and their viands excellent ; they were also most unexpectedly treated with a *serenade*, the music of which lasted until midnight. They were afterwards cheered with the sight of about thirty dancing girls, who tripped " on the light fantastic toe," to the sound of tinkling instruments. Their paces were measured, and their gestures animated ; and Mr. Irwin, after mentioning the " dancing girls of India," with comparative contempt, alludes to females of the same description mentioned in the Scriptures, gravely adding : " These are certainly the descendants of the women of Israel, whose beauty and skill gladdened the heart of the sapient king." This appears to have been a ceremony constantly recurred to on the first visible rise of the Nile, which was now announced. " It seems,"

adds he, "that they took our house in their way to the river, where they went down to bathe at that late hour, and to sing the praises of the benevolent Power, who yearly distributes his waters, to supply the necessities of the natives."

On the 14th of August, a new Hakeem arrived, and the English prisoners now hoped for deliverance from their Egyptian bondage; but they were once more disappointed. "He was an elderly man, tall, thin, and of mean appearance; distant in his behaviour and seemingly full of his own consequence. This may possibly arise from the lowness of his origin, which is that of an Abyssinian slave. His deportment was so different from that which distinguished his predecessor in office, that we could not but look on him as an arrogant upstart who promised to abuse the favour of his lord. He condescended, however, to tell us with a smile, that his master had recommended us to his good offices, and had directed that the strictest justice should be rendered to us."

At length, on Saturday the 30th of August, their deliverer made his appearance in the person of the long-expected Shaik, who sailing down the Nile, accompanied by a large fleet of boats, at length landed at his capital. Having summoned the strangers to his palace, they were seated on the same carpet with himself; and treated with coffee and fruit, among which they found some delicious grapes, and a date surpassing every thing they had before tasted.

"While we were partaking of this repast," says Mr. Irwin, "I had leisure to take a full view of the Shaik, and cannot resist the inclination of introducing a character to the reader of which I flatter myself he will have occasion to be enamoured hereafter. *Isman Abu Ally*, the great Shaik of the Arabs; for such we would render the *Shaik ul Arab* — is a short fat man, of about five feet two inches high, and turned, as we learned, of 75. His eyes are grey, and his complexion very fair; but what at once gives him a singular and more youthful look, his beard which is very bushy, is coloured of a bright yellow. This exterior may not seem the most promising, and might create distaste, if the benevolence that beams from his coun-

tenance, were not ever foremost to secure the heart of the beholder. Neither can the shrillness of his voice, which is harsh and dissonant, destroy the beauty of the sentiments which it is sufficiently made use of to convey.

“ He is still active for a man of his size and age ; and his spirits are so good that, were it not for the ravage that time has made among his teeth, he might pass for a younger man, by fifty years at least. Except the Viziers of Yambo and Ghinnah, whom we had found to be villains by sad experience, we had hitherto dealt with the dross of the nation. It was reserved for this moment for us to meet with the polite gentleman and the honest man, comprised in the person where they ought to be found : — in the representative of his people. Happy the subject of a virtuous land who at once possesses and imitates so rare an example ! But how sunk in the abyss of infamy are the race who wholly deviate from the standard of rectitude ; and though daily reproached by the life of their monarch, are not to be reclaimed by the tone of authority, or the elocution of active virtue.”

From this virtuous and energetic old man, they at length obtained ample justice, and it appears indeed, that he had returned to Ghinnah, chiefly for the purpose of redressing their wrongs and dispatching them in safety. Some of the offenders now suffered the punishment of the bastinado ; others had a chain placed around their necks ; and all within his reach, were obliged to restore the property of which the strangers had been cheated and deprived. He himself appears to have been proof against temptation, for on their sending him a present, by way of acknowledgment, after the Eastern manner : he returned a handsome sabre and pair of pistols, which were articles of considerable value, and only retained, out of politeness, an Indian carpet and *palampore*, or coverlet of little or no value. As it was dangerous, although pleasant, to fall down the stream of the Nile, he ordered camels to be provided for their conveyance by land, and being well acquainted with the faithlessness of his subjects, he took the son of the conductor, by way of hostage, for the fidelity of the father, to

whom he gave notice, that he should answer "with his head," for the safety of the Englishmen under his charge.

At length, on the 4th of September, they mounted their camels, and commenced their journey across the deserts of Thebais. Their *route* was rendered both more remarkable and romantic, by falling in with a band of robbers, who had just plundered a caravan. But instead of molesting our travellers, they became both guides and protectors, in this unfrequented waste; for after a *parley*, they agreed to pursue the same course, and having once given a solemn promise, it was their constant and unvarying practice to prove faithful to their engagements, even at the expence of their blood.

After travelling 333 miles, they arrived at Tinnah, a small but pleasant town which is supposed to stand on the site of ancient Babylon. It was during this long journey, and the very day, they joined company with a band of Arabian thieves, that Mr. Irwin found time and inclination to attune his lyre to harmony, and sing of the dreary scenes, and dangerous adventures to which he was now continually subjected.

### ODE TO THE DESART.

*Written on a Journey through the Desart of Thebais, Sept. 1777.*

" Thou waste from human sight retir'd,  
By nought esteem'd, invok'd, desir'd;  
Where stony hill and sterile plain,  
And ever-sullen silence reign. \*

" Where nought is seen to cheer the eye,  
But russet earth and sunny sky;  
Nor tree nor herbage bless the ground,  
Nor aught to cherish life is found.

" Save, where the deer, whom fears assail,  
Shoots suddenly athwart the vale;  
If chance the sound of distant feet  
Approach his lonesome, dark retreat.

\* " And ever musing melancholy reigns." PORE's *Eloisa to Abelard*.

- “ O ! while thy secrets I explore,  
And traverse all thy regions o'er,  
The patient camel I bestride —  
May no ill hap his steps betide !
- “ As on we press the burning soil,  
And through the winding valley toil,  
Still lend some hill's projecting height,  
To shield me from Sol's piercing sight.
- “ And should our scrips of water fail,  
And horrid thirst my lips assail,  
Then, then, thy scanty drops impart,  
To renovate my fainting heart.
- “ Nor to thy toiling son refuse  
The truffle's leaf, or berry's juice ;  
These stinted products of the waste,  
Luxurious ! let my camel taste.
- “ At noontide heat, and midnight cold,  
Thy vengeful stores of wrath with-hold ;  
Nor bid the sudden whirlwind rise,  
To blend at once, hills, vales, and skies
- “ Dread cause too subtle to define,  
Where horror ! danger ! ruin join !  
Stop, stop, its pestilential breath,  
That whelms a caravan in death !
- “ But chief, whence lies our daily track,  
O ! turn the roving Arab back ;  
Who, tiger-like, infests the way ;  
And makes the traveller his prey.
- “ As erst the sons of Israel fled  
From Pharaoh's reign and Nilus' bed,  
Here manna fell by God's command,  
And water followed Moses' wand :



- “ So may old Nilus passing nigh,  
A portion of his floods supply ;  
Invite the neighb’ring peasant’s toil,  
To cultivate thine alter’d soil.
- “ So be thy wilds with verdure clad,  
And trees adorn each naked head ;  
So in the thirsty vales below,  
Discover’d springs be taught to flow.
- “ So, teeming with neglected veins,  
Thy marble pay the sculptor’s pains ;  
Who emulous of Grecian taste,  
May give an Athens to the waste !
- “ And on thy furthest sandy shore,  
Which hears the Red-sea’s billows roar,  
May commerce smile, her sails unfold,  
And change thine iron age to gold !”

It was on the 19th of September, that they embarked on board of a boat, and passing under the stern of an Ottoman frigate, arrived at Old Cairo. After dressing themselves in their best Turkish clothes, they arrived at the English factory, and were received with open arms, by Mr. Baldwin the Consul. While engaged in this short and charming voyage, Mr. Irwin composed the following verses, addressed to a river, which he never mentions without a mingled sentiment of veneration and enthusiasm.

#### ODE TO THE NILE.

- “ Immortal stream ! whom Afric leads  
Through barren plains and verdant meads ;  
Now flaming o’er the Nubian sands,  
Now laving Egypt’s cultur’d lands ;
- “ To mark where first thou court’st the gale,  
The poet’s stretch of thought might fail :

Might heroes shudder to behold  
The wonders which thy depths unfold.

“ O ! place me on thy gentle tide,  
When first it leaves its fountain wide ;  
Till threat'ning on the cat'ract's brow,  
It rushes to the world below.

“ Here, as the joyless wild we trace,  
Where nature shrouds her beauteous face,  
The ostrich — child of want and gloom !  
Dips in the wave his silver plume.

“ Now lurking on thy sedgy shores  
The crocodile his prey explores  
Hark ! 'tis a virgin's shriek \* — thy flood  
She sought — to colour with her blood !

“ No arms the monster can appal —  
Bounds from his scales th' unerring ball.  
Lo ! to avenge a mother's tears,  
The hippopotamus appears !

“ Now death assumes his grimmest form,  
Thy troubled surface owns the storm ;  
Like warring vessels, on they move  
Their mortal rage and force to prove !

“ O ! haste we from this conflict dire,  
And to thy fairer scenes retire ;  
Where, swelling o'er thy native strand,  
Thy waters fatten all the land ;

“ Where on the wide expanse are seen  
The tufted grove and island green :  
The minaret that tow'rs above,  
The haram — prison gay of love !

\* This alludes to a circumstance which happened just before the author came to the Nile. The frequent combats between the River-horse and the Crocodile, in which the former is generally victorious, are too well known to need a comment.

- “ As pleasure, commerce, spread the sail,  
A thousand galleys catch the gale :  
Their oars a thousand galleys ply,  
Whose pomp refulgent strikes the eye.
- “ Now bear me down thy western arm,  
Where Delta looks one cultur'd farm ;  
By ruin'd cities, nodding towers,  
And hide me in Rosetta's bowers.
- “ Hail shades ! who give such charms to view,  
As ne'er Alcinous' garden knew ;  
While blossoms here their sweets unfold,  
Bow'd is the tree with fruit of gold.
- “ And thou fam'd stream ! what tho' no more  
The world's emporium as of yore ;  
Tho' grac'd not with the Roman name,  
Thy realm contending factions claim :
- “ A Pharaoh's daught'ler erst was thine,  
Whom pity touch'd with cares divine,  
As she the prophet chanc'd to note  
While in his ozier-bark afloat.
- “ Thou knew'st a Cleopatra's reign,  
Who number'd victors in her train ;  
A Julius, led by glory's ray ;  
An Anthony — to love a prey !
- “ A Ptolemy of learn'd renown,  
And great Sesostris wore thy crown ;  
Thine, Memphis ! crush'd by adverse fates,  
And Thebes — that op'd an hundred gates !
- “ And still shalt thou our homage keep,  
While sea-girt Pharos awes the deep ;  
While left for ages to admire,  
Thy pyramids to heav'n aspire !

“ While plenty on thy banks is found,  
To feed the famish'd nations round ;  
While Poets strive to sing in vain  
The wonders of thy vernal reign !”

Our travellers appear to have been delighted with their new residence, notwithstanding its very uninviting name of “ *Miser Ul Kaira*,” or the city of Anguish. But they had been so plundered, and terrified, and teased, and abused at Yambo, Cosire, and Ghinnah, that every thing by contrast now proved doubly delightful. To their honour be it recorded, also, that amidst the luxuries of the capital of Lower Egypt, they did not forget to show their gratitude to the good Shaik Ul Arab, to whom they now transmitted, by their camel-drivers, a Turkey-carpet, for the use of his seraglio, and a piece of purple broad cloth, with satin facings for a vest to himself; to these were added, some jars of French fruits, and Italian sweetmeats, together with a few rarities for the ladies. These were also accompanied with a complimentary letter.

On the 24th of September, they once more embarked in a boat, and proceeded along the river, to the village of Daranie on the Delta; but not until they had learned the joyful intelligence, that Mr. Whitehall had arrived in a month at Cairo, from London, with dispatches containing orders for the restoration of Lord Pigot to the government of Fort St. George. They now continued their course to Rosetta, and at length, arrived at Alexandria. They immediately visited Pompey's pillar, to the top of which, some English sailors had contrived to scramble by an ingenious contrivance, about four years before, for the express purpose of drinking a bowl of punch on its summit.

Having embarked on board a French ship, called the *Cleopatra*, on the 8th of October, for Marseilles, they traversed the continent, and landed safely in England at the close of the year 1777, after a journey of eleven months from India. The duplicates of their dispatches, had arrived at the India-House, long before themselves; but they had the satisfaction

to be received with kindness, and a speedy redress of all grievances was immediately promised.

Mr. Irwin, in the course of the next year (1778) married Miss Brooke. This lady, was nearly related to the celebrated Henry Brooke, a native of Ireland, who, after composing a poem, entitled, "Universal Beauty," which obtained the approbation of Pope, wrote the celebrated tragedy of *Gustavus Vasa*, and the novels, called "the Fool of Quality," and "Juliet Grenville."

His suspension having been taken off by order of the Court of Directors, and he himself restored to his former station in the service of the East India Company, Mr. Irwin now determined to return to Asia. Equally undismayed and undeterred by the miseries and mishaps which had attended him during his former perilous journey, he actually set out again on a similar one in 1780. His experience, however, proved eminently serviceable to him, on the present occasion, and his route over land was far more fortunate, as well as expeditious now than before.

On his arrival at Madras, a new and most distressful scene presented itself. When he left India, the Company's servants were divided among themselves, and many flagrant instances of insubordination had actually taken place; but now, the very existence of its dominions was threatened, and insult superadded to misfortune. A superior French fleet, under the Bailli de Suffrein, more than once threatened the Company's settlements, and the *drawn battles* of Admiral Sir Edward Hughes, conferred but little security on their maritime dominions. In addition to this, Hyder Ally had over-run the Carnatic, and his light troops occasionally advanced to the very walls of Fort St. George, while the finances of the English in that quarter of the world, as well as their energy, seemed to be paralyzed. On this occasion, the knowledge, integrity, and abilities of Mr. Irwin proved peculiarly serviceable: and he was employed more than once on missions of no little consequence to the prosperity of the Company, which, by a display of its resources, coupled with many singular instances of good

fortune, at length contrived to surmount all its difficulties, and prove far more powerful and flourishing than before.

The late Lord Macartney, who was no bad judge of the human character, now invoked the aid and services of Mr. Irwin; and in consequence of this selection, he was nominated a member of the committee "for the management of the territory and revenues of the Carnatic." This nobleman afterwards employed him in a situation of peculiar delicacy and importance: this was the superintendence and administration of the provinces of Tinnivelly and Madurah. To his lot, also, fell the necessary but arduous task of conciliating the Polygar chiefs, with whom he accordingly entered into direct and immediate negotiations, for the purpose of keeping the districts now under his management in a state of quiet and security. Without this, it was impossible either to govern the country, raise crops, obtain rents, or levy taxes. The neighbouring Polygars were, before this period, a kind of free-booters, who descended on the peaceable inhabitants of the plains, and swept away the fruits of their labours. When the country appertained to the Nabob, they were constantly in arms; and such were the oppressive exactions of his Highness's servants and managers, that they were rather encouraged than deterred, during the existence of his government. But the ceded districts were now managed with ability as well as justice; and an armed force was prepared, ready to march at a moment's notice, in order to punish all infractions. But it was seldom that Mr. Irwin had occasion to recur to military coercion; for the system regularly adopted by him was both liberal and lenient: and, accordingly, he soon won the esteem and confidence of the natives, by his unvarying integrity and good conduct. According to the very flattering report of the committee of enquiry, "no force was required in this district to overawe the Polygars; and their confidence in the Company's justice was such, that a single message drew the most powerful of them from their woods to pay their tribute, or give any other proof of obedience that was demanded: they protected the property of the government and of the husbandman, paid the stipulated

tribute, with the greatest part of their fixed balances, and in less than two years the Company had received nearly half the amount of the nabob's collection, in eighteen."

Some changes having taken place in the management of these districts, Mr. Irwin returned to Europe in 1785, and after reposing himself for a time in the bosom of his family, he recurred once more to his literary pursuits, and published several of his compositions, both in prose and verse. The Court of Directors, in testimony of his services, voted him a handsome sum of money, by way of indemnification for the services he had performed, and the losses he had sustained, and in 1792, he was appointed with some other respectable gentlemen, to superintend the Company's affairs in China. He returned in 1794, and having now obtained an honourable independence, aspired soon after to be a director himself; but without that success to which his merits and knowledge so fully entitled him. This doubtless proceeded from the amiable simplicity of his character: for no one was ever less imbued with that little cunning, usually dignified with the appellation of "a knowledge of the world." He now passed his time in retirement, devoting himself to the social converse of a few persons whom he esteemed. His leisure hours were, as formerly, occasionally devoted to the Muses, and he, at length, expired at Clifton, on October 14, 1817, leaving behind him the character of a man, so uniformly good and amiable, "that he never lost a friend, and never made an enemy." Mr. Irwin was a member of the Royal Irish Academy; and although not born in the sister kingdom, he always exhibited a strong attachment to the soil of his forefathers.

*List of the Works of Eyles Irwin, Esq.*

1. St. Thomas's Mount, a Poem, 4to. 1771.
2. Bedukah, an Indian Pastoral, 4to. 1776.
3. Adventures during a Voyage up the Red Sea, and a Journey across the Desart, 1 vol. 8vo. 1780.
4. Eastern Eclogues, 4to. 1780.

5. Epistle to Mr. Hayley, 4to. 1783.
6. Ode on the Death of Hyder Ally, 4to. 1784.
7. Triumph of Innocence, an Ode, 4to. 1796.
8. Inquiry into the feasibility of Buonaparte's Expedition to the East, 8vo. 1796.
9. Buonaparte in Egypt, 8vo. 1798.
10. Nilus, an Elegy on the Victory of Admiral Nelson, 4to. 1798.
11. The failure of the French Crusade, 8vo. 1799.
12. The Bedouins, 12mo. 1802.
13. Ode to Iberia, 4to. 1808.
14. Elegy on the Fall of Saragossa, 4to. 1808.
15. Napoleon, or the Vanity of human wishes, 2 parts, 4to. 1814.



No. XII.



HER ROYAL HIGHNESS  
THE PRINCESS CHARLOTTE OF WALES,

DAUGHTER OF HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE REGENT, AND  
CONSORT OF HIS SERENE HIGHNESS, THE PRINCE OF SAXE-COBOURG.

THE Princess Charlotte-Caroline-Augusta, was the only child of his Royal Highness George-Augustus-Frederick, Prince of Wales, by Caroline-Amelia-Elizabeth, second daughter of the late Duke of Brunswick, whose mother, Augusta, was eldest sister of his present Majesty George III. Her Royal Highness was born at Carlton-House, on the 7th day of January 1796, precisely nine months after the solemnization of the nuptials between her august parents, who were first cousins. The birth as usual in such cases, was accompanied by an extraordinary degree of publicity; for there were present on that occasion, the sole surviving brother of his present Majesty \*, the late Archbishop of Canterbury ;

\* His Royal Highness the late Duke of Gloucester.

the Lord Chancellor, and all the great officers of state, as well as the most distinguished persons of the Prince's own household. The ladies of the Princess of Wales's bed-chamber, also assisted on this memorable and joyful event.

For a considerable period of her infancy, this Royal Child was reared under the care and tuition of her mother, who then occasionally resided in the vicinity of Greenwich.\* The pious and learned Dr. Porteus, late Bishop of London, who appears to have paid a visit to the Princess of Wales, and conversed familiarly with her daughter when only five years and seven months old, not only found her mind imbued with the principles of religion, but discovered a tenacity of memory, and a promise of future excellence, that greatly delighted the worthy prelate.† He has indeed left his sentiments on this subject on record; and it is no small degree of praise, thus early to have arrested the attention and obtained the *secret* praises of so eminent a man.

The health of her Royal Highness, however, was not at this period such as could have been wished. But great, and almost instantaneous relief was expected, and readily obtained from the salutary effects of invigorating sea-breezes. Accordingly, a removal for a few weeks to South-End, was now deemed necessary; but Bognor first, and Weymouth after-

\* At Shrewsbury-House, Blackheath.

† "Yesterday, the 6th of August, 1801, I passed a very pleasant day at Shrewsbury-House, near Shooter's Hill, the residence of the Princess Charlotte of Wales. The day was fine, the prospect extensive and beautiful, taking in a large reach of the Thames, which was covered with vessels of various sizes and descriptions.

"We saw a good deal of the young Princess; she is a most captivating and engaging child; and considering the high station she may hereafter fill, a most interesting, and important one. She repeated to me several of her hymns with great correctness and propriety; and being told, when she went to South-End, in Essex, (as she afterwards did for the benefit of sea-bathing,) she would then be in my diocese, she fell down on her knees, and begged my blessing. I gave it her with all my heart, and with my earnest secret prayers to God, that she might adorn her illustrious station with every Christian grace; and that if ever she became the Queen of this truly great and glorious country, she might be the means of diffusing virtue, piety, and happiness, through every part of her dominions!"

Extract from the Journal of the late Bishop of London, published after his lordship's demise.

wards, became the places selected for her residence, when a recurrence was had to salt-water for relief.

At a proper age, the Princess Charlotte was removed from the nursery, and placed, by her Royal Grandfather, under the superintendence of a very worthy and pious Countess, who acted for some years as *Gouvernante*. Notwithstanding a certain sprightliness, which is but seldom accompanied with application, her Royal Highness not only exhibited an early promise of talents ; but was actually prevailed upon to dedicate a large portion of her time to studies of various kinds. These were at first superintended by females ; but as maturity approached, we find the following members of her establishment placed in succession about the person of this amiable and distinguished Princess, who from the moment of her birth, had been constantly looked up to, with eventful eyes, both as the hope of a nation, and the heir to its throne.

*List of those employed in the education of her Royal Highness, the Princess Charlotte, from her tender years, until the epoch of marriage.*

Countess of ELGIN.

Miss GARTH.

Lady DE CLIFFORD.

Mrs. UDNEY.

Miss GALE.

Dr. FISHER, first Lord Bishop of Exeter, and afterwards of Salisbury.

Rev. Dr. NOTT.

Rev. Dr. SHORT.

The Duchess of LEEDS.

Rev. A. STERKY.

Mrs. LEWIS.

Mrs. CAMPBELL.

The Misses COATES.

It is eminently disagreeable even in private life, to recur to family dissensions ; and it would be both painful and indelicate to detail any of the differences that may have occurred among

the most august personages in the empire. It is sufficient therefore to state, that unhappily such actually did exist, and were productive of the most distressing results to all parties.

The Princess of Wales had presided, both over the infancy and riper years of a beloved daughter, who, on the retreat of Lady Elgin, was confided to the superintendence of Sophia, Dowager Baroness de Clifford, a personage not a little attached to, and greatly beloved by, the distinguished female, under her immediate care. A limited, although uninterrupted intercourse was still suffered to take place between Warwick-House and Connaught-Place, even after her Royal Highness had obtained a separate establishment. But this was not fated long to endure.

In 1814, when the Princess Charlotte had attained the mature age of eighteen, her birth-day was celebrated with a considerable degree of splendour; and her Royal Highness received the compliments of the nobility and gentry for the first time. On this occasion a visit was permitted to her royal mother, who descended to the door and embraced her daughter, with the most cordial affection.

On the 12th of July, 1814, all the household of the Princess Charlotte was suddenly and unexpectedly dismissed, and her person confided for a short period to the Dowager Countess of Rosslyn, and the Countess of Ilchester. Her Royal Highness at the same time received intimation, that she was to remove to Cranbourne-Lodge, and there to remain, under the sole superintendence of certain ladies, without whose acquiescence neither letters nor visits were to be received.

On this, the young Princess, actuated by a sudden movement of filial affection, instantly repaired, unknown to, and unaccompanied by any one, to Connaught-Place, in order to disclose her sorrows: but having been disappointed in her hopes of seeing her mother, who happened to be absent, she was at length persuaded to return to Carlton-House, whither she was accompanied by her Uncle the Duke of York.

Soon after this the Princess of Wales (August 9, 1814,) repaired to the Continent, and has since settled in Italy. Mean-

while the daughter resided, as before stated, in the vicinity of Windsor; and the next anniversary of her birth day, at which period she had completed her nineteenth year, was observed at the Castle, with great splendour. The entertainment concluded with a grand *fête*, not only to all the branches of the royal family, but also to several of the nobility, at Frogmore.

On May 18th, 1815, her Royal Highness was presented at Court, for the first time. Nearly about the same time, this amiable female received the addresses of the young Prince of Orange, whose family had sought and obtained refuge here after their expulsion from Holland. His Majesty had taken an early and a lively interest in the fate of this youth, who was grandson to the late Stadtholder. Under the royal auspices, he had been sent to Oxford, and was always deemed the intended husband of the future Queen of England. But her Royal Highness, from the very first, declined this match, and with due prudence, sheltered her objections under the most decorous pretexts which filial duty could wish for, or an affection to her future subjects suggest. His Royal Highness, after the battle of Waterloo, which conferred a diadem on his father, returned to this country, to renew his suit; but without success.

Another lover was the object of her choice. This proved to be Prince Leopold, the third brother of the reigning Duke of Cobourg, who constitutes the head of a younger branch of the family of the king of Saxony. On taking leave of the unfortunate and gallant Duke of Brunswick-Oels, for the purpose of visiting England, his Serene Highness, whose mother was nearly related to the Royal Family of England, presented him with letters of introduction; accordingly, during the memorable summer of 1814, he was presented at Court. His Highness had fought gallantly in the Austrian army during the recent continental war, and although he possessed no very high rank in the service of the Emperor, yet he found means to make himself distinguished, on more than one occasion, by his bravery. This young German, in consequence of his amiable qualities, at length attracted the notice of the Princess Charlotte, who could not be insensible either to his many personal

as well as mental accomplishments. After several interviews both at Buckingham and Warwick-House, the young Prince returned to the continent; but he renewed his visit in the beginning of the year 1816.

As the consent of the Prince Regent had now been obtained, and every thing was fully arranged, after the usual prefatory ceremonies, the Great Seal of England was affixed by order of John Lord Eldon, High Chancellor, to the instrument authorising the marriage; which took place May 2d, 1816, in the great crimson room, at Carlton House. The ceremony was performed by his Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, in the presence of her Majesty, the Prince Regent, the Dukes of York, Clarence, and Kent, &c. &c. Two days after, his royal father-in-law was pleased to appoint his Serene Highness Leopold-George-Frederick Prince of Saxe-Cobourg, of Saalfeld, a General in the British army.

The parliament soon after testified its liberality by a suitable provision of 50,000*l.* per annum, during their joint lives, and the life of the survivor; to which was added a separate income of 10,000*l.* additional, for the Princess Charlotte, by way of pin-money, while 60,000*l.* were advanced for plate, and equipages, as well as to render Claremont, now purchased for their residence, worthy of its illustrious owners. In a matrimonial connection, such as this, where two hearts beat in unison together, and no base or sordid calculations were allowed to intervene, the hours passed rapidly and pleasantly away. At length, to the great joy of the nation, her Royal Highness was declared to be pregnant, and fourteen millions of people were now on the tip-toe of expectation. All were prepared to burst forth into a delirium of joy on hearing the news of a happy *accouchement*. Sir Richard Crofts, the son-in-law, and pupil of the celebrated Dr. Denman, was selected to preside on this occasion. Dr. Baillie, his brother-in-law, had also instructions to be in attendance; and the assistance of Dr. John Sims was invoked at a later period.

The moment that her Royal Highness found herself seriously indisposed, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishop

of London, the Lord Chancellor, and all the great officers of state, as is usual on these occasions, assembled at Claremont.

The two first bulletins, were of a favourable, although not of a very decisive nature; but the third, dated "Claremont, November 5, 10 o'clock, *p.m.* announced the melancholy intelligence of the birth of a still-born male child;" to which, however, was added the consolatory sentence, "that Her Royal Highness is doing extremely well." But, alas! her Royal Highness was suddenly seized with spasms, and after a severe struggle, died in the arms of Mrs. Lewis, who had been an attendant on her person from childhood. The following official letter from the Secretary of State, soon disclosed the fatal intelligence; this was almost instantaneously diffused over the whole metropolis, the inhabitants of which, now converted their expected gratulations, into bitter tears.

"To the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor,

"Whitehall, November 6.

"My Lord,

6 o'clock, *a.m.*

"It is with the deepest sorrow, that I inform your Lordship, that Her Royal Highness, the Princess Charlotte, expired this morning, at half-past two o'clock.

"I have the honour to be, &c. &c. &c.

"SIDMOUTH."

This most melancholy, and alarming catastrophe, was immediately promulgated to the whole nation, by the London Gazette Extraordinary, published in the course of the same day; while the solemn *tolling* of the great bell of St. Paul's, had before announced the mournful and distressing tidings to the whole metropolis and its immediate vicinity.

Thus prematurely demised, in the arms of one of her attendants \*, in the bloom of life, and the full enjoyment of all the consolations that can be derived from rank, fortune, and grandeur, the Princess Charlotte-Augusta, daughter of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, and consort of his

\* Mrs. Lewis.

Serene Highness, Prince Leopold of Saxe-Cobourg, in the 22d year of her age. In respect to stature, she was of the middle size, and rather large and full. But her person was duly proportioned; and there was a certain degree of symmetry, as well as loveliness, diffused over her whole form. The limbs were delicately rounded, especially the arms and ancles; the head in particular, exhibited an air of mingled grace and dignity; her large and intelligent blue eyes, lighted up features that seemed to improve by contemplation, while they conferred no small brilliancy on a complexion that nature had rendered uncommonly fair. It was impossible, indeed, to scan the whole figure, even with a single glance, without being affected at one and the same time, with an interesting and indelible impression.

Her Royal Highness's spirit, was truly and characteristically English. Accustomed frequently to behold the sea, she always contemplated it as the appropriate scene of British glory. On visiting a ship of the line, in 1815, (the *Leviathan* of 74 guns,) this animated Princess trod for the first time on "the wooden walls of old England;" and seized on this occasion to pay a tribute of homage to the stern virtues of the maiden Queen, who first rendered our navy formidable in modern times. Sentiments such as these, justified the fondest hopes of a splendid reign: for the glories of Elizabeth, would not have been tarnished, with the proud, haughty, and imperious rule of the Tudors.

In point of acquirements, it was evident that nature had contributed as much as instruction, to render the education of this lamented Princess, in no small degree, complete. Of her own vernacular tongue, both as to its principle and practice, it is unnecessary to observe, that she was a complete mistress. The French, the Italian, the German, were also familiar; and the most celebrated works in these three languages, were perused with equal grace and facility.

Nor were the embellishments of female education forgotten: the strings of the harp, and the keys of the piano, were struck with uncommon delicacy, and effect, by fingers formed from early



youth, to extract from these instruments, the finest tones and the truest harmony. Drawing too, as well as music, did not display their attractions in vain. Landscape frequently employed the leisure hours of royalty, and some of the beautiful views around Claremont, attest the delicacy both of her eye and hand. Her pencil too, at times, aspired to historical subjects, and a head of Hannibal still exhibits the fierce eye, the unconquered spirit, and the unconquered mind of the hero of Saguntum and Cannæ.

Mrs. Cosway is said to have directed her taste and judgment in the fine arts; while the elder Bacon taught his royal pupil how to model, with effect, so as to transfuse to plaster, the form, and air, and manner, of real life. Content with attaining the plastic art, we have not learned that her Royal Highness ever wielded the mallet, or directed the chisel, in order to confer on a rude block of marble, all the features and animation of the "human form divine."

Subjects of higher importance were not, in the mean time, overlooked. Her illustrious father was pleased publicly to declare, that he had educated his only child according to the principles of the English constitution, in respect to which he had selected "his friend, Mr Fox, as a model." Accordingly, his daughter was taught from her early youth, to pronounce the name of that great orator with respect; and was accustomed to present his bust, by Roubiliac, to her particular friends.\*

\* The following letter to the late Countess of Albemarle, a daughter of Lady de Clifford, whom she had been accustomed to see, and correspond with, without restraint, was accompanied by one of these.

"My dear Lady Albemarle,

"I most heartily thank you for your very kind letter, which I hasten to answer. But I must not forget, that this letter must be a letter of congratulations, the most sincere: I love you, and therefore there is no wish, I do not form for your happiness in this world.

"May you have as few cares, and vexations, as can fall to the lot of man; and may you long be spared, and long enjoy the blessing of all others the most precious—Your dear Mother—who is not more precious to you than to me. But there is a trifle which accompanies this, (the bust of the Right Hon. Charles James Fox,) which I hope you will like; and if it sometimes reminds you of me, it will be a great source of pleasure to me. I shall be most happy to see you, for it is a long time, since I had that pleasure.

"Adieu my dear Lady Albemarle, and believe me, ever,

"Your affectionate and sincere Friend,

"CHARLOTTE."

In respect to religion, her Royal Highness was educated in the principles of the Church of England, to which she always professed a decided attachment. Had it pleased Providence that this interesting Princess had lived to ascend the throne, like her ancestors, she would have doubtless supported it; without forgetting, however, the protection due, not only to all other Protestant, but even to all Catholic institutions within the pale of the empire.

Her Royal Highness, like her venerable Grandfather, constantly felt and exhibited the most lively interest in the diffusion of human knowledge. His Majesty was pleased frequently to express a hope, "that he might live long enough to learn that every one within his dominions could read the Bible!" This has been nearly realised during the latter part of his reign; and his most amiable grand-daughter contributed with the utmost zeal, to accomplish his most gracious and benignant wishes. Every one within the range of her daily excursions, was provided with this book; and it was always accompanied with obvious and suitable admonitions.

Not limiting her exertions to this point, our august Princess endowed schools, and afterwards superintended their progress: without this, all the rest is but a waste of wealth! Her bounty was also extended to charitable establishments, already in existence: for during the last rigorous winter, she was pleased to render the situation of many young females more comfortable, by means of cloaks, or mantles, of the warmest and plainest materials; and that they might not suppose any degradation annexed to such a present, her Royal Highness condescended to wear one of them herself!

This amiableness of character and disposition extended to the lowest objects; but her goodness was not unmingled with discretion. She loved *cleanliness*; and the very appearance of it, was sure to attract a present of clothes, on the part of the poor and distressed. Thus every cottage in the vicinity was visited; hunger was banished from her domain; the tears of the orphan were dried up; while the sighs of the widow were not heard in vain!

On all these occasions, the use of pompous titles were interdicted; yet the strange and incongruous appellations excited by gratitude were heard with a smile; while the wants, and the prayers of helpless infancy and debilitating age were alone attended to.

Even in her rebukes, the illustrious Charlotte exhibited an originality of character. She once reclaimed an attendant who never was punctual by the present of a watch; and was thus gracious, even in her reprehensions

Of a princess so endeared, not only to a whole country, but a whole nation, happily some precious memorials still remain. Her Royal Highness's portrait was painted with great fidelity and effect by Sir Thomas Lawrence, R. A. The first bust was by the late Mr. Bacon. Another was moulded, on her marriage, and then cut in marble by the plastic hand and skilful chisel of Turnerelli; a third has been since completed under the eye of Mr. Hardenberg, a German; while several excellent miniatures, by Daw, are treasured up in the cabinet of his Serene Highness, her mournful husband. That fond, amiable, and accomplished Prince, has ordered her apartment to be preserved exactly in the same state as it was left at the commencement of the last fatal illness. He has also visited her tomb; and while at Claremont, he daily repairs to her dressing-room, where he recognises, as so many precious relics, every thing that can remind him of happier and more prosperous days.

We shall conclude this mournful article by a quotation from the very appropriate text of one of the many public expressions of grief on the demise of a princess, who is here deeply and most sincerely lamented: "On account of her Royal Highness's talents and acquirements; her attachment to the principles of true freedom, civil and religious, which have constituted the basis of our country's felicity and glory: the countenance which her public conduct and domestic virtues afforded to the interests of good morals, and the exercises of piety and devotion; while from her courteous and condescending manners we were led to anticipate, in common with the country at

large, extensive blessings to the community under her rule, if she had lived to fill the throne of this united kingdom.

“ But as the Almighty has been pleased, in the course of his providence, to disappoint our sanguine hopes, by removing her, we trust, to a better world, we bow in humble submission beneath his chastening rod, and pray that the Universal Sovereign will cause good to arise out of the national affliction; and that He may still continue to be a wall of fire round about, and the glory, in the midst of our land.”

No one member, either of the present or any former royal family, was ever so long, so generally, and so deeply lamented. Prince Arthur and King Edward VI. both died at a tender age, and were doubtless mourned by their contemporaries; the Aurora of a day glorious to England, seemed to open with the dawning virtues of Henry, eldest son of James I., and the death of the Duke of Gloucester, sole surviving child of Queen Anne, by excluding the Stuart line and introducing that of the illustrious sovereign of Hanover, afforded no small consolation amidst the afflictions of the nation.

But when the morning star of the House of Brunswick became eclipsed for ever, the dynasty itself seemed ready to be extinguished; a whole nation felt the shock, not as an event to which royalty itself is incident; but were lost and bewildered in wonder first, and then in horror, as if visited by some great convulsion of nature.

At length, when no longer astounded with terror and surprise, the striking and infrequent example was beheld, of a whole people voluntarily clad in black and diffused in tears. So great indeed, and so general was the moral effect of this sympathy, that it proved at once contagious and fatal: for the sudden communication of her Royal Highness's premature and lamented fate produced a similar catastrophe on the part of many a delicate female who also became in rapid succession, both a mother and a corpse!

The remains of her Royal Highness were deposited in a mahogany coffin, lined and trimmed with white satin; the

bolster and pillow, being covered with the same; the plate, which was of silver gilt, bore the following inscription:

Depositum  
 Illustrissimæ Principissæ CHARLOTTÆ  
 AUGUSTÆ  
 Illustrissimi Principis GEORGII AUGUSTI  
 FREDERICI  
 Principis Walliæ, Britanniarum Regentis  
 Filiæ unicæ,  
 Consortisque Serenissimi Principis  
 LEOPOLDI GEORGII FREDERICI  
 Ducis Saxoniz, Marchionis Misniæ,  
 Landgravii Thuringiæ, Principis Coburgi  
 Saalfeldensis, Exercituum Regis  
 Marescalli, Majestati Regiæ a  
 Sanctoribus Consiliis, Ordinis Pericelidis  
 et Honoratissimi Ordinis Militaris  
 de Balneo Equitis:  
 Obiit 6ta die Novembris anno Domini  
 M.DCCCXVII. Ætatis suæ XXII.

The body of the infant was embalmed in the same manner as that of the Princess, and placed in a separate coffin.

*The following was the Order of Procession :*

Naval Knights of Windsor, in full dress uniform.  
 Poor Knights of Windsor, in mantles and gowns.  
 Pages of the Prince Leopold.  
 Pages of the Royal Family.  
 Pages of the Prince Regent.  
 Pages of their Majesties.  
 Solicitor to her late Royal Highness.  
 Comptroller of the Household of her late Royal Highness.  
 Apothecaries of her late Royal Highness.  
 Surgeons of her late Royal Highness.  
 The Curates and Rectors of the parishes of Esher and Windsor.  
 Physicians who attended her late Royal Highness.

Chaplains to his Serene Highness.  
 Equerry to her late Royal Highness.  
 Equerries of the Royal Family.  
 Equerries of the Prince Regent.  
 Quarter-Master-General.                      Adjutant-General.  
 Officers of the Duchy of Cornwall.  
 Chamberlain to the Great Steward of Scotland.  
 Grooms of the Bed-chamber to the Prince Regent.  
                                  Pursuivants of Arms.  
 Comptroller of the                      }                      {                      Treasurer of the  
 Prince Regent's Household.                      }                      {                      Prince Regent's Household.  
                                  Master of the Prince Regent's Household.  
                                  Heralds at Arms.  
 Privy Purse and Private Secretary to the Prince Regent.  
                                  Lords of the Prince Regent's Bedchamber.  
                                  Norroy King of Arms.  
 The Bishop of Exeter.                      The Bishop of Salisbury.  
                                  The Bishop of London.  
 The Ministers of Hanover and Saxony, Count Munster and  
                                  Baron de Just.  
                                  The Deputy Earl Marshal.  
                                  His Majesty's Ministers.  
 The Archbishop of Canterbury.  
                                  Choir of Windsor.  
                                  Six Minor Canons.  
                                  Prebendaries of Windsor.  
 Dean of Windsor, Hon. and Rev. Henry Lewis Hobart, D. D.  
                                  Captain of the Yeomen of the Guard.  
 The Groom of the                      {                      The Lord Steward of his                      {                      The King's Master  
                                  Stole.                      {                      Majesty's Household.                      }                      of the Horse.  
                                  Clarenceux King of Arms.  
 Gentlemen Ushers.                      {                      The Coronet of her late                      {                      Gentlemen Ushers.  
                                  {                      Royal Highness, borne                      {                      upon a black velvet  
                                  {                      cushion by Colonel                      {                      Addenbroke.  
 Gentleman Usher.                      {                      Garter Principal King of                      {                      Gentleman Usher.  
                                  {                      Arms, bearing his                      {                      Sceptre.

Secretary to the { The Lord Chamberlain of } The  
Lord Chamberlain. { his Majesty's Household. } Vice-Chamberlain.

Supporters of the Pall, Lady Boston, **The Coffin** Supporters of the Pall,  
Lady Grenville. Lady Arden,  
Lady Ellenborough.

Covered with a black velvet Pall, adorned with eight escutcheons of  
her Royal Highness's Arms, and carried by eight Yeomen of  
the Guard, under a canopy of black velvet, borne by eight  
Gentlemen Ushers.

His R. H. the Duke of Clarence, in a long black cloak, his train borne by two Gentlemen of his Royal Highness's Household.	}	<b>THE CHIEF MOURNER,</b> His Serene Highness <b>PRINCE LEOPOLD,</b> in a long black cloak, his train borne by <b>Baron de Hardenbrock and</b> <b>Sir Robert Gardiner.</b>	{	His R. H. the Duke of York, in a long black cloak, his train borne by two Gentlemen of his R. H.'s Household.
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Princes of the Blood Royal, their trains borne by two Gentlemen  
of their Housholds.

Ladies of the Bedchamber to her late Royal Highness.

Women of the Bedchamber to her late Royal Highness.

His Majesty's Establishment at Windsor.

Her Majesty's Establishment at Windsor.

Ladies Attendants on their Royal Highnesses the Princesses.

Attendants on her late Royal Highness the Princess Charlotte.

Attendants on her Majesty and the Princesses.

## No. XIII.



FRANCIS HORNER, Esq. M. P.

To Biographical sketches of two celebrated legal and political characters, who have left this frail and transitory scene of existence, we have now to add a third. The former died at a mature age, in full possession of a splendid reputation, and long after they had attained high professional honours: for the Right Hon. George Ponsonby had been seated on the woolsack; and the Right Hon. John Philpot Curran, had also worn the ermine; but the subject of the present memoir was cut off, when he had but just attained manhood, and without being able to realise those hopes, which had been formed from his early talents and his numerous virtues.

Francis Horner, of whom we are now about to treat, was born in Edinburgh, August 12, 1778. He could not, like the first of these two great men, boast either of wealthy relatives or high family connexions; he of course disclaimed those adventitious advantages of birth and fortune, on which the world ge-



nerally sets so high a value ; and, like the second of the characters just alluded to, built a firm and solid foundation on his talents and his eloquence. Thus, become like him, the architect of his own fortune, he also erected a noble superstructure, from the completion of which he was alone prevented by an untimely death.

The father of Mr. Horner was an eminent linen-manufacturer of Edinburgh, who determined to give him the best education that could be obtained in his native country. His son was accordingly brought up at the High School, where it was soon discovered that not only his intellectual powers, but his application to his labours were superior to those of his class-fellows.\* He accordingly became an early favourite with, and a distinguished pupil of the late Dr. Adam, who then presided there ; and a memoir of the life of that gentleman, who has been considered as a second Busby, was dedicated to him, by one of his school-fellows, at a time when the Public was but little aware of the extent of his genius.†

\* Mr. Horner obtained at an early period the rank of *Dux*, among his school-fellows, although Mr. Brougham and the present Lord Advocate of Scotland, were his contemporaries. And he constantly retained that distinguished station, in spite of all competition. Dr. Adam, the Rector, was accustomed to observe, that “ Francis Horner was the only boy he ever knew *who had an old head upon young shoulders* !”

He was never known to join in the field sports or recreations of any of the boys ; and he kept his station at school by his own industry and talents alone ; which enabled him to excel those who had private tutors to direct their studies. It has been thought by some of his medical friends, that these early propensities, and constant application, during his “ boyish days,” contributed but too much to sow the seeds of that pulmonary disease, which assailed his youth, overwhelmed his manhood, and at length led to an untimely grave.

† TO FRANCIS HORNER, ESQ. M. P.

In the

Belief that to HIM,

Of all the PUPILS of DR. ADAM,

A Tribute of Regard,

to the

Memory of that venerable Man, may with most propriety

Be Dedicated ;

This Memoir is Inscribed,

as a

Very humble Testimony

of the

AUTHOR'S

Unfeigned Respect and Esteem.

When removed to the College of Edinburgh, in like manner he attracted the notice of the celebrated Dugald Stewart, then one of its professors, and as he already aimed at a public station, Mr. Horner soon became a member of the \* Speculative Society, and there can be but little doubt, that this most excellent institution contributed not a little to form his mind and excite his ambition. Possessing a wish to excel, here he was taught to marshal his thoughts in due order ; to select and arrange both authorities and arguments ; to digest facts ; to compose memoirs ; and above all, to a great facility in his elocution, to superadd that confidence in his growing powers, which the habit of addressing an audience can alone communicate.

It so happened at this period, that Lord Henry Petty, the second son of the first Marquis of Lansdown, had repaired to Edinburgh for the purpose of completing his education, at one of the northern universities ; and Lord Ashburton, as well as Lord Fitzharris, were sent thither at the same time and for the same purpose. Lord Henry happened to reside in the house of the celebrated professor already alluded to ; and it was impossible to be long there without seeing young Horner. A speedy introduction, soon produced an acquaintance ; and this acquaintance at length ripened into friendship. They attended the Speculative Society together ; they studied in common ; in short they were inseparable. Nor did this end

\* "The Speculative Society was instituted for improvement in public speaking, and in science in general, without having peculiar reference to any of its branches : the members meet weekly during the sitting of the College, in a hall built by themselves, A. D. 1769, on a spot of ground, on the south side of the College area, granted them for the special purpose by the town-council of Edinburgh, at the recommendation of the Principal of the University.

"The gentlemen discourse, in rotation, upon any literary subject they incline ; and these performances undergo a very free criticism. The rest of the entertainment consists of a debate upon a subject previously appointed, which is opened by one of the members in rotation, and discussed by the Society at large.

"Far from a promiscuous admission into the Society, it is restricted to a very limited number ; and such has been its reputation, that the number of candidates for supplying vacancies has afforded the Society an opportunity to select those who are distinguished for capacity, industry, and decorum. It consists of gentlemen, who follow respectively all the liberal professions, but the greatest number belongs to the law ; and it has already furnished several professors to the Universities of St. Andrew's, and Edinburgh."

Arnot's History of Edinburgh, p. 430—431.

like many college intimacies, in a long separation, an accidental recognition, and a parting dinner ! On the contrary, an intercourse and connexion were now formed, that tended not a little to give a colour and complexion to the life of one, if not both these juvenile candidates for fame. In fine their mutual regard remained unaltered for a long series of years ; and they were at length parted by death alone, which dissolves all sublunary attachments, and leaves nothing to the survivor but painful recollections and barren regrets !

Meanwhile, after remaining some time in London under the superintendence of the Rev. Mr. Hewlett, Mr. Horner directed his studies towards the municipal law of his native country, a great and ample field for speculation, as it is necessary to collect the opinions of both foreign and domestic writers, and to pass through a course of reading formidable in the extreme. At that epoch too, it was not a little unfavourable to eloquence ; for the intervention of a jury was then unknown in civil causes, or at least, the right of decision by twelve men had been usurped for ages by a court, the privileges claimed by which at one time seemed to set the laws themselves at defiance. Since that period, however, the people of Scotland have either acquired, or been restored to their long-lost privileges, and the manner in which verdicts have been recently recorded, and decisions obtained, reflects no little honour on the present age.

While Mr. Horner was thus fitting himself for his future forensic labours, as a Scotch Advocate, Lord H. Petty, after obtaining a degree at Trinity College, Cambridge, visited the Continent, in company with M. Dumont, a Genevese of considerable talents. He returned to England in his 22d year, and was immediately elected one of the two M. P.'s for Calne, a borough said to be under the immediate influence of his family. Having thus been nominated a member of the new parliament just then convoked, he soon began to be considered a very able and formidable ally of the opposition of that day : the chief object of which was to humble Mr. Pitt, and place a Whig administration in the room of him and his followers.

Mr. Fox and his friends, at length proved successful ; and

at the age of twenty-six, Lord Henry Petty found himself the new Chancellor of the Exchequer, a member of the Privy Council, and M. P. for the University of Cambridge.

Undazzled by the sudden splendour with which he was now surrounded, the memory of former friendships was not obliterated; on the contrary, the ties and connexions of his youthful years seemed rather strengthened than relaxed. He was well aware of the talents of Mr. Horner; he admired his manly sense; his mild manners; his unassuming virtues: these had all entitled him to his regard and esteem. He therefore recommended this gentleman to the notice of his coadjutors, and he was accordingly returned to the third imperial parliament, which met Dec. 10, 1806, as a Burgess for the borough of St. Ives. This was a very critical period, for the Whigs had then a transient glimpse of the *promised land*; but they were scarcely allowed to take possession of it, before they were once more driven into the desert of opposition!

In the course of the succeeding year a new Ministry was appointed, and a new parliament convoked; but the name of Mr. Horner was not to be found in the list of its members. He had, however, distinguished himself so much, during the only session in which he had sat, as to be already in possession of a high reputation; and in consequence of this early promise, was again returned, and nominated a member of the celebrated committee, "to examine and controul the several branches of the public expenditure," on which occasion he took an active, and even a distinguished part.

Meanwhile, he took chambers and resided in Garden-court, Inner Temple, and having entered his name at one of the adjoining "Inns," soon after received a "call" to the English bar. But although thus fitted to attend the tribunals in Westminster Hall, and qualified at the same time, to act as an advocate at Edinburgh\*, yet we do not find him anxious for either professional emoluments or employments. Indeed, so bewitching is the race of ambition, the pursuit of fame, of

\* Mr. Horner, as early as 1800, was admitted into the Society of Advocates.

wealth, and parliamentary distinction, that he scarcely ever made his appearance in the courts of justice, either in the southern or northern capitals of the united kingdom. In Scotch appeals, before the House of Lords, however, he was more than once engaged; and it was he who drew up, and argued the case of Lady Essex Ker, in the great Roxburgh cause. This lady, sister of a former duke, is a woman of considerable talents; and if we mistake not greatly, provided both the law and the facts on this occasion: in short, she may be said to have prepared the brief. But Lord Chancellor Eldon, from the first, opposed all her ladyship's pretensions, and it was not for Mr. Horner to persevere on such slender grounds, as he was obliged *professionally* to exhibit; for in a very short time the Lords gave a full and complete decision in favour of the pretensions of Sir James Innes Ker, Bart. who immediately acceded to all the ducal honours and estates.

It has already been observed, that the subject of this memoir was not returned a member to the new parliament, convoked on the dismissal of the Foxo-Grenville administration; but he was too important to be consigned to oblivion. Accordingly, Viscount Mahon (now Earl Stanhope) son-in-law of Lord Carrington, thought fit to withdraw from Wendover, and he was immediately *nominated* for that place. It is to be regretted greatly, that Mr. Horner was not regularly elected for some great city, such as Westminster, instead of being thus bandied about, from one noble family to another; but yet it must be allowed on the other hand, that while he bore his faculties "meekly," he, at the same time, exhibited a certain degree of spirit and integrity, that rendered him too formidable, either to be treated or considered as a mere dependant.

The only thing of any value, we believe, that was ever obtained by him, was the office of a commissioner for investigating the claims on the late Nabob of Arcot, whose debts had been guaranteed by a solemn treaty with the East India Company, This proved to be no *sinecure*: it was an office of labour, of inquiry, and fatigue; and it cannot be doubted by any

one who contemplates his character, that he conducted himself on the present as on all future occasions, with singular fidelity, delicacy, and dispatch. It appeared, on investigation, that there were not only a great number of pretended claims, but also of falsified documents: these could not elude the scrutiny of able and well-informed men, who negatived the pretensions of a variety of applicants, while not a few withdrew from a scrutiny, so necessary for the security of public morals, as well as the public purse. We have reason to believe, that he afterwards resigned from a mere point of honour: not choosing to hold any public employment under the crown, after his friends and coadjutors had been obliged to withdraw.

On February 1, 1810, Mr. Horner entered on that part of his parliamentary career, by which he afterwards obtained such a brilliant reputation: the relative state of our coin and exchanges. Accordingly, pursuant to notice, he moved for a variety of accounts and returns, respecting the circulating medium and the bullion trade. He deprecated the idea of ascribing the difference between the relative value of these, to the number of country banks; as these formed an essential part of our system of credit and currency; nor would he adopt another conclusion: that the cause must be referred *wholly* to an undue issue of notes, by the Bank of England. He did not presume, however, as yet, to form a clear or confident conclusion upon the subject: his present conjecture was, that the high price of gold might be produced, partly by a larger circulation of Bank of England paper than was necessary; and partly by the new circumstances in which the bullion trade of this country was placed. But it was to arrive at a correct opinion that he wished the House to call for the information, and undertake the enquiry he meant to propose.

On May 10, 1810, when Alderman Combe made a motion, blaming the ministers for obstructing the address of the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Livery of London, to his Majesty in person; it was seconded by Sir William Curtis, and supported by Mr. Horner. The last of these gentlemen considered this as "a question of vital importance, respecting

which, the ministers had attempted to defend themselves by drawing the veil from the infirmities of their Sovereign. It was the right of the Livery of London, as it was of other subjects, to have access to his Majesty's person, in the worst times—even in those of Charles II. this had not been refused. The most corrupt ministers, indeed, had no idea that it could ever be refused. How complete would have been their triumph if they had discovered the practice which of late had prevailed! The obstruction of petitions was a subversion of the fundamental law of the land."

On the debate on the state of the nation, Dec. 20, 1810, in consequence of the King's illness, Mr. Horner delivered a long and able speech. He contended for making a Regent by an address, instead of a bill; "as the present proceedings exhibited an attempt to break down and confound all the boundaries of legislative authority, as distributed among the three independent branches of Parliament; to usurp the legislative power of the crown, and by a gross and illegal fiction, to steal the semblance of an assent, where there could be no negative; with the absurdity of affecting to sanction by the royal assent itself, the remedy made necessary by the incapacity of the king to assent to any thing."

Towards the conclusion of the same session of parliament, the House of Commons demonstrated its respect for the talents of Mr. Horner, by unanimously nominating him a member of the "Bullion Committee\*," the object of which, as has been

\* The following are the names of the gentlemen who formed the committee:—

- |  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| 1. F. Horner, Esq.   | 11. H. Thornton, Esq.        |
| 2. The Rt. Hon. S. Perceval, Esq.,<br>Chancellor of the Exchequer.           | 12. Rt. Hon. R. B. Sheridan. |
| 3. Rt. Hon. George Tierney.  | 13. Rt. Hon. Charles Long.   |
| 4. Earl Temple.  | 14. A. Baring, Esq.          |
| 5. Hon. T. Brand.  | 15. W. Manning, Esq.         |
| 6. H. Parnell, Esq.  | 16. R. Sharp, Esq.           |
| 7. D. M. Magens, Esq.  | 17. P. Grenfell, Esq.        |
| 8. G. Johnstone, Esq.  | 18. J. L. Forster, Esq.      |
| 9. D. Giddy, Esq., in the room of the<br>Rt. Hon. George Rose, who declined. | 19. J. Thompson, Esq.        |
| 10. W. Dickinson, Esq.   | 20. J. Irving, Esq.          |
|  | 21. W. Huskisson, Esq.; and  |
|  | 22. Hon. J. Abercrombie.     |

already observed, was intimately connected, not only with our coin, and our foreign commerce, but also with the balance of trade. We find his name at the head of this list; he also presided for some time as chairman, during the examination of the evidence, and actually drew up the first part of the Report; the second was penned by Mr. Huskisson, and the third by Mr. Henry Thornton.

The Select Committee began by stating the unusual rise of gold, so as, at length, to attain a *maximum* of  $15\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. above the mint price; in short, the ounce of standard fineness had risen from 3*l.* 17*s.* 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* to 4*l.* 10*s.* and 4*l.* 12*s.* market price. They also discovered that the exchanges on Hamburg and Amsterdam had been depressed towards the latter end of 1809, from 16 to 20 per cent. below *par*, while the exchange on Paris was still lower. So extraordinary a rise in the market price of gold in this country, coupled with so extraordinary a depression of our exchanges with the Continent, pointed to the state of our domestic currency, as the cause of both: they therefore examined several merchants of extensive dealings and intelligence, with respect to the high price of gold, and the low rates of exchange.

On enquiry, the high price of gold was entirely ascribed by most of the witnesses, to an alleged scarcity of that article, arising out of an extraordinary demand for it on the continent of Europe. But "in the sound and natural state of the British currency," it was the opinion of the committee, that this effect could not be produced here. Moreover, the price of bullion did not rise abroad; "but since the suspension of the cash payments in 1797, if gold be still our legal measure of value and standard of prices, it may be doubted whether after the new system of Bank of England payments has taken place, a paper currency not convertible into gold, and variable in its relations, be not now, in reality, that measure." An encrease in the quantity of the local currency of a particular country, will raise prices exactly in the same manner as an encrease of the supply of precious metals raises prices all over the world: this will also produce



a correspondent rise in the market price of bullion above its mint price.

In Paris it appears that the progress of the French in Germany, had tended greatly to render the course of exchange unfavourable; the unwillingness of great houses on the Continent to discount bills on England; and the very large sums paid to foreign ship-owners, which, in respect to hemp, has amounted to nearly the prime cost in Russia: these have all also contributed to make the exchanges against England fluctuate from 15 to 20 per cent.

After a variety of enquiries, it is contended, that the effects of the depreciation of the coin by wear and clipping, coupled with an excessive issue of paper, naturally produce an unfavourable exchange. The Bank of England itself, soon after its first establishment, furnishes a very instructive illustration: for the depreciation of the coin, occurring at the same time with an excessive issue of paper, their notes experienced a depreciation of 17 per cent.; while the price of gold bullion was so much raised, that guineas were at 30 shillings, all the good silver disappeared, and the exchange with Holland, which had a little before been effected by the remittances for the army, sunk 25 per cent. under par. The remedy was, at length discovered, in a new coinage of silver, and in cancelling bank notes to a certain extent.

It is here asserted, that nevertheless the bank “had entertained a mistaken view of the difficulties of that time,” yet the suspension of their cash payments was imposed upon it by the legislature; “although in the novel situation in which this commercial company was placed by the law, and entrusted with the regulation and control of the whole circulating medium of the country, they were not fully aware of the principles on which such a delicate trust should be executed, but continued to conduct their business of discounts and advances, according to their former routine.” The conclusion of the whole evidence, reasoning, and deductions, is —

1. The repeal of the law suspending the cash payments of the Bank:

2. That cash payments cannot safely be resumed at an earlier date than two years ; and

3. That the details be left to the Bank itself.

On the 16th of May, 1811, Mr. Horner, in a long and eloquent speech of between three and four hours duration, supported all these positions, and contended strongly for the justice of the results. On this occasion, he with great ability defended both himself and the other members of the committee; and concluded with moving sixteen distinct resolutions, the subject of which amounted to the following :

1. That the promissory notes of the Bank of England are stipulations to pay, on demand, the sum in pounds sterling, respectively specified in each of these notes :

2. That when the Parliament suspended the cash payments of these notes, it was not its intention that any alteration whatever should take place in the value of these promissory notes.

3. It appears, that the actual value of the promissory notes of the Bank of England, (measuring such value by the standard weight of gold and silver aforesaid,) has been for a considerable period of time, and still is considerably less than what is established by the laws of the realm, to be the legal tender in payment of any money contract or stipulation :

4. That the fall which has taken place in the value of the promissory notes, &c., has been occasioned by the too great issue of paper currency :

5. That to the depreciation which has taken place in the relative value of the currency of this and foreign countries may be attributed the depression of the exchange :

6. That the only certain and adequate security to be provided against an excess of paper currency, and for maintaining the relative value of the circulating medium of the realm, is the legal convertability, upon demand, of all paper currency, into lawful coin of the realm : and

7. That in order to revert gradually to this security, and to enforce a due limitation of the paper of the Bank of England, as well as the other Bank paper of the country : it is ex-

pedient to alter the time, during which the suspension of cash payments shall continue, from six months after the ratification of a definitive treaty of peace, to that of two years from the present time.

This subject, in consequence of various adjournments, occupied the House of Commons during four or five evenings; in the course of which, Mr. Vansittart, Mr. Rose, Lord Castlereagh, &c. objected to the report. All these were ably replied to by Mr. Horner, who concluded as follows: —

“ If there has been a departure from the old and constitutional mode of circulating the legal and substantial currency of the country, the charge of novelty is not imputable to that proposition that would go to restore it. A general rule in the great system of circulating medium, has been avowedly violated. I admit, indeed, that that minister is wise and happy who knows when and how to deviate from a general rule; but I contend that there is still more wisdom and more felicity in knowing when and under what circumstances that general rule ought to be adhered to [hear !]; but that above all, the cool trial of wisdom — the true test of fortune, is to know when to return, after the success of an apparently justifiable deviation [hear !] although it is indeed difficult to resist the temptations of temporary expedients. I shall now conclude, by reading a passage I met with this morning, preserved by the celebrated Sir Robert Cotton, and cited by him as an extract from a memorial of one of the greatest statesmen this country has produced: it is a remonstrance to Queen Elizabeth from her ablest minister, Lord Burleigh, when at a time that Spain was aiming at universal monarchy, (how strange the vicissitudes of empires !) that monarch entertained the notion of making some experiments upon the national currency. The language is simple, but in my mind, pregnant with wisdom: ‘ it is not by the ends of wit, or by the shifts of devices, that you can defray the expences of the monarchy, but by sound and solid courses.’ ”

Although all the propositions of Mr. Horner were negatived in due order; yet both the report and the speech had a great

effect, not only on the public mind, but on the conduct both of government and the bank. After the expiration of seven years we have found all his plans and prognostications fully verified. Since that period, the issue of the *new* circulating medium has been curtailed. Notes have risen to par, the market and mint price of gold are either the same, or nearly so; money is now raised by exchequer bills, at about three per cent.; and the foreign exchange, instead of continuing against, is now in general favourable to us.

On May 7, 1812, Mr. Creevy made a motion respecting the two tellerships of the exchequer, then held by the Marquis of Buckingham and Earl Camden, for services to the state, performed by their respective fathers. On this occasion he moved seven distinct resolutions, the purport of which, was to confine their respective emoluments "to some fixed and settled sum of money, more conformable in amount to the usual grants of public money for public services, and more suited to the present means and resources of the nation."

These propositions were opposed both by the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Mr. Ponsonby. Mr. Horner also objected to the scheme now offered. "No man," he said, "could deny the right of the House to regulate, reform, and even abolish offices; but still, all this must be done subject to regulations. The rights of all such as have *vested interests*, must be preserved sacred; for the property of the state was not to be protected at the expence of private property. All property indeed, was the creature of the state, and equally depended on it for protection; and if this principle were once broken through by the House, temptation would grow upon them and there would be no end to it."

The resolutions were afterwards negatived, without a division.

Meanwhile, the health of Mr. Horner declined apace. His deep researches, his continued studies, and his parliamentary efforts, had alike contributed to wear out and exhaust a constitution which was never very strong. At length, a pulmonary consumption was actually threatened, and a removal to

a warmer air and a more cheerful climate was prescribed by his physicians. Accordingly, with no small share of reluctance, he at length complied with their advice, to which were super-added the tender injunctions of his family, and the kind and constant recommendations of his friends. Crossing therefore to the Continent, with all convenient speed, he passed through France, and not deeming, even its southern provinces, sufficiently warm, he entered Italy and continued there. The symptoms of the disorder \*, however, which was carried from England, and had preyed upon him for so long a period, increased to such a formidable degree, that he was at length cut off at Pisa, on the 8th of February 1817, in the height of manhood, and in the full enjoyment of his reputation, at the age of thirty-eight. His remains were interred in the protestant burying-ground, at Leghorn.

Thus died, and was buried in a foreign country, Francis Horner, Esq., a man amply endowed by nature, and greatly beloved, both by friends and opponents. The qualities of his head and heart were indeed calculated to engage and secure attachment: for although modest, and even reserved in his manners; he was yet warm, zealous, affectionate, grateful, and disinterested.

In point of understanding he was at once strong and comprehensive: in point of learning, respectable; in regard to that species of knowledge acquired, after entering the world, he was almost unrivalled; and in solid judgment, he did not yield the palm to any one.

An orator of a former day attained the appellation of "Single-speech Hamilton," on account of the talents therein displayed; and were the reputation of Mr. Horner to rely on his celebrated oration on the bullion question alone, he must even then have been considered as a man possessed of no ordinary taste for eloquence, and no common degree of political wisdom.

As his conduct was always strictly correct, a high opinion

\* This proved a complicated case; for it consisted not only of a contraction, but unduration of the lungs.

was constantly entertained, both of his patriotism and his private worth. Thus without any of the accidental, but felicitous aids of birth, station, fortune, or connexions, he nobly contrived to win his way and to encrease yearly in reputation; equally free from vanity and presumption, he also carefully steered clear of personality, and party rancour: accordingly, while endeared to the opposition, in whose ranks, with a very short exception, this gentleman constantly fought; he was at the same time greatly respected by ministers. His eloquence participated of his character; it was chaste, correct, elegant, and skilful. Such was his inflexible integrity on one hand, and his high reputation on the other, that it is a well-known fact, that Mr. Ponsonby frequently deferred to his judgment; and it is now no secret, that when that gentleman thought of retiring, he always pointed out Mr. Horner as worthy of being his political successor!\*

\* How much and truly he was beloved, may be gathered from what occurred in Parliament, soon after the melancholy intelligence of his demise arrived in England: for it will appear from the debates, that he was respected and regretted by all parties in the nation.

“ In the House of Commons, on Monday, March 3d, 1817, *Lord Morpeth* rose, and spoke as follows:—I rise to move that the Speaker do issue his writ for a new member to serve in Parliament for the borough of St. Mawes, in the room of the late Francis Horner, Esq.

“ In making this motion, I trust it will not appear presumptuous or officious, If I address a few words to the House upon this melancholy occasion. I am aware that it is rather an unusual course; but, without endeavouring to institute a parallel with other instances, I am authorised in saying that the course is not wholly unprecedented.

“ My lamented friend, of whom I never can speak without feelings of the deepest regret, had been rendered incapable for some time past, in consequence of the bad state of his health, of applying himself to the labours of his profession, or to the discharge of his parliamentary duties. He was prevailed upon to try the effects of a milder and more genial climate—the hope was vain, and the attempt fruitless; he sunk beneath the slow but destructive effect of a lingering disease, which baffled the power of medicine and the influence of climate; but under the pressure of increasing infirmity, under the infliction of a debilitating and exhausting malady, he preserved undiminished the serenity of his amiable temper, and the composure, the vigour, and firmness of his excellent and enlightened understanding. I may, perhaps, be permitted, without penetrating too far into the more sequestered paths of private life, to allude to those mild virtues—those domestic charities, which embellished while they dignified his private character. I may be permitted to observe, that as a son and as a brother, he was eminently dutiful and affectionate: but I am aware that these qualities, however amiable, can hardly, with strict propriety, be addressed to the consideration of Parliament. When, however, they are blended, interwoven, and incorporated in the character of a

The following character of Mr. Horner is ably penned by a contemporary, who was acquainted with him, both at school

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public man, they become a species of public property. and, by their influence and example, essentially augment the general stock of public virtue.

“ For his qualifications as a public man I can confidently appeal to a wider circle — to that learned profession of which he was a distinguished ornament — to this House, where his exertions will be long remembered with mingled feelings of regret and admiration. It is not necessary for me to enter into the detail of his graver studies and occupations. I may be allowed to say generally, that he raised the edifice of his fair fame upon a good and solid foundation — upon the firm basis of conscientious principle. He was ardent in the pursuit of truth; he was inflexible in his adherence to the great principles of justice and of right. Whenever he delivered in this House the ideas of his clear and intelligent mind, he employed that chaste, simple, but at the same time nervous and impressive style of oratory, which seemed admirably adapted to the elucidation and discussion of important business: it seemed to combine the force and precision of legal argument with the acquirements and knowledge of a statesman.

“ Of his political opinions it is not necessary for me to enter into any detailed statement: they are sufficiently known, and do not require from me any comment or illustration. I am confident that his political opponents will admit, that he never courted popularity by any unbecoming or unworthy means: they will have the candour to allow, that the expression of his political opinions, however firm, manly, and decided, was untinged with moroseness, and unembittered with any personal animosity or rancorous reflection. From these feelings he was effectually exempted by the operation of those qualities which formed the graces and the charm of his private life.

“ But successful as his exertions were, both in this House and in the Courts of Law, considering the contracted span of his life, they can only be looked upon as the harbingers of his maturer fame, as the presages and the anticipations of a more exalted reputation. But his career was prematurely closed. That his loss to his family and his friends is irreparable, can be readily conceived; but I may add, that to this House and the country it is a loss of no ordinary magnitude: in these times it will be severely felt. In these times, however, when the structure of the constitution is undergoing close and rigorous investigation; on the part of some with a view of exposing its defects, on the part of others with that of displaying its beauties and perfections; we may derive some consolation from the reflection, that a man not possessed of the advantages of hereditary rank or of very ample fortune, was enabled, by the exertion of his own honourable industry — by the successful cultivation of his native talents, to vindicate to himself a station and eminence in society, which the proudest and wealthiest might envy and admire.

“ I ought to apologise to the House, not, I trust, for having introduced the subject to their notice, for of that I hope I shall stand acquitted, but for having paid so imperfect and inadequate a tribute to the memory of my departed friend.”

Mr. Canning. — “ Of all the instances wherein the same course has been adopted, as that which my noble friend has pursued with so much feeling and good taste on this occasion, I do not remember one more likely than the present to conciliate the general approbation and sympathy of the House.

“ I, Sir, had not the happiness (a happiness now counterbalanced by a proportionate excess of sorrow and regret) to be acquainted personally, in private life, with the dis-

and the University. It is here literally copied from a manuscript kindly communicated to the Editor.

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tinguished and amiable individual whose loss we have to deplore. I knew him only within the walls of the House of Commons. And even here, from the circumstance of my absence during the last two sessions, I had not the good fortune to witness the later and more matured exhibition of his talents; which (as I am informed, and can well believe) at once kept the promise of his earlier years, and opened still wider expectations of future excellence.

“ But I had seen enough of him to share in those expectations, and to be sensible of what this House and the country have lost by his being so prematurely taken from us.

“ He had, indeed, qualifications eminently calculated to obtain and to deserve success. His sound principles — his enlarged views — his various and accurate knowledge — the even tenor of his manly and temperate eloquence — the genuineness of his warmth, when into warmth he was betrayed — and, above all, the singular modesty with which he bore his faculties, and which shed a grace and lustre over them all; these qualifications, added to the known blamelessness and purity of his private character, did not more endear him to his friends, than they commanded the respect of those to whom he was opposed in adverse politics; they ensured to every effort of his abilities an attentive and favouring audience; and secured for him, as the result of all, a solid and unenvied reputation.

“ I cannot conclude, Sir, without adverting to a topic in the latter part of the speech of my noble friend, upon which I most entirely concur with him. It would not be seemly to mix with the mournful subject of our present contemplation any thing of a controversial nature. But when, for the second time within a short course of years, the name of an obscure borough is brought before us as vacated by the loss of conspicuous talents and character, it may be permitted to me, with my avowed and notorious opinions on the subject of parliamentary constitution, to state, without offence, that it is at least some consolation for the imputed theoretical defects of that constitution, that in practice it works so well. A system of representation cannot be wholly vicious, and altogether inadequate to its purposes, which sends to this House a succession of such men as those whom we have now in our remembrance, here to develop the talents with which God has endowed them, and to attain that eminence in the view of their country, from which they may be one day called to aid her counsels, and to sustain her greatness and her glory.”

Mr. *Manners Sutton*. — “ I know not whether I ought, even for a moment, to intrude myself on the House: I am utterly incapable of adding any thing to what has been so well, so feelingly, and so truly stated on this melancholy occasion; and yet I hope, without the appearance of presumption, I may be permitted to say, from the bottom of my heart, I share in every sentiment that has been expressed.

“ It was my good fortune, some few years back, to live in habits of great intimacy and friendship with Mr. Horner: change of circumstances, my quitting the profession to which we both belonged, broke in upon those habits of intercourse; but I hope, and believe I may flatter myself, the feeling was mutual. For myself, at least, I can most honestly say, that no change of circumstances — no difference of politics — no interruption to our habits of intercourse, even in the slightest degree diminished the respect, the regard, and the affection I most sincerely entertained for him.



“ The characteristics of Mr. Horner’s mind, if I apprehend them rightly, were clearness of perception, calmness of judge-

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“ This House can well appreciate the heavy loss we have sustained in him, as a public man. In these times, indeed in all times, so perfect a combination of commanding talents, indefatigable industry, and stern integrity, must be a severe public loss ; but no man, who has not had the happiness — the *blessing*, I might say — to have known him as a friend ; who has not witnessed the many virtues and endearing qualities that characterised him in the circle of his acquaintance, can adequately conceive the irreparable chasm in private life this lamentable event has made.

“ In my conscience I believe, there never lived the man, of whom it could more truly be said, that, whenever he was found in public life, he was respected and admired — whenever he was known in private life, he was most affectionately beloved.

“ I will no longer try the patience of the House : I was anxious, indeed, that they should bear with me for a few moments, whilst I endeavoured, not to add my tribute to the regard and veneration in which his memory ought, and assuredly will be held ; but whilst I endeavoured, however feebly, to discharge a debt of gratitude, and do a justice to my own feelings.”

Mr. *Wynn* said, “ that his Noble Friend (Lord Morpeth), and his Right Hon. Friend who had last spoken (Mr. M. Sutton), had expressed themselves concerning their departed friend with that feeling of affection and esteem which did them so much honour, and which was heightened by their habits of intimacy, and their opportunities of observing his character ; but the virtues by which he was distinguished were not confined within the circle of his acquaintance, or concealed from the view of the world. Every one who saw Mr. Horner, had the means of judging of his temper, his mildness, and his personal virtues ; for they were seen by all. He carried with him to public life, and into the duties and the business of his public station, all that gentleness of disposition, all that amenity of feeling, which adorned his private life, and endeared him to his private friends. Amidst the heats and contests of the House, amidst the vehemence of political discussion, amidst the greatest conflicts of opinion and opposition of judgment, he maintained the same mildness and serenity of disposition and temper. No eagerness of debate, no warmth of feeling, no enthusiasm for his own opinions, or conviction of the errors of others, ever betrayed him into any uncandid construction of motives, or any asperity towards the conduct of his opponents. His loss was great, and would long be regretted.”

Sir *S. Romilly* said, “ that the long and most intimate friendship which he had enjoyed with the Honourable Member, whose loss the House had to deplore, might, he hoped, entitle him to the melancholy satisfaction of saying a few words on this distressing occasion. Though no person better knew, or more highly estimated, the private virtues of Mr. Horner than himself, yet, as he was not sure that he should be able to utter what he felt on that subject, he would speak of him only as a public man.

“ Of all the estimable qualities which distinguished his character, he considered as the most valuable, that independence of mind which in him was so remarkable. It was from a consciousness of that independence, and from a just sense of its importance, that, at the same time that he was storing his mind with the most various knowledge on all subjects connected with our internal economy and foreign politics, and that he was taking a conspicuous and most successful part in all the great questions which have lately been discussed in Parliament, he laboriously devoted himself to all the painful duties of his profession. Though his success at the bar was not at all adequate to his merits, he yet

ment, and patience of investigation — producing, as their consequences, firmness of conduct and independence of prin-

stedfastly persevered in his labours, and seemed to consider it as essential to his independence, that he should look forward to his profession alone for the honours and emoluments to which his extraordinary talents gave him so just a claim.

“ In the course of the last twelve years the House had lost some of the most considerable men that ever had enlightened and adorned it: there was this, however, peculiar in their present loss. When those great and eminent men to whom he alluded were taken from them, the House knew the whole extent of the loss it had sustained, for they had arrived at the full maturity of their great powers and endowments. But no person could recollect — how, in every year since his lamented friend had first taken part in their debates, his talents had been improving, his faculties had been developed, and his commanding eloquence had been rising with the important subjects on which it had been employed — how every session he had spoken with still increasing weight and authority and effect, and had called forth new resources of his enlightened and comprehensive mind — and not be led to conjecture, that, notwithstanding the great excellence which, in the last session, he had attained, yet if he had been longer spared, he would have discovered powers not yet discovered to the House, and of which perhaps he was unconscious himself. He should very ill express what he felt upon this occasion, if he were to consider the extraordinary qualities which Mr. Horner possessed apart from the ends and objects to which they were directed. The greatest eloquence was in itself only an object of vain and transient admiration; it was only when ennobled by the uses to which it was applied, when directed to great and virtuous ends, to the protection of the oppressed, to the enfranchisement of the enslaved, to the extension of knowledge, to dispelling the clouds of ignorance and superstition, to the advancement of the best interests of the country, and to enlarging the sphere of human happiness, that it became a national benefit and a public blessing; that it was because the powerful talents, of which they were now deprived, had been uniformly exerted in the pursuit and promoting of such objects, that he considered the loss which they had to lament as one of the greatest which, in the present state of this country, it could possibly have sustained.”

“ Mr. *W. Elliott*. — “ Amongst his other friends, Sir, I cannot refuse to myself the melancholy consolation of paying my humble tribute of esteem and affection to the memory of a person, of whose rich, cultivated, and enlightened mind I have so often profited, and whose exquisite talents — whose ardent zeal for truth — whose just, sedate, and discriminating judgment — whose forcible but chastened eloquence — and, above all, whose inflexible virtue and integrity rendered him one of the most distinguished members of this House, one of the brightest ornaments of the profession to which he belonged, and held him forth as a finished model for the imitation of the rising generation.”

“ The full amount of such a loss, at such a conjuncture, and under all the various circumstances and considerations of the case, I dare not attempt to estimate. My Learned Friend (Sir S. Romilly) has well observed, that, if the present loss be great, the future is greater: for, by dispensations far above the reach of human scrutiny, he has been taken from us at a period when he was only in his progress towards those high stations in the state, in which, so far as human foresight could discern, his merits must have placed him, and which would have given to his country the full and ripened benefits of his rare and admirable qualities.”

ciple. Carrying these qualities into his public life, he evinced greater moderation and forbearance than are often found in the narrow and comparatively unambitious strifes of a less extended scene.

“ He entered parliament at rather an early age, and soon became not only an useful and conspicuous man of business, but drew more respect to his personal character, and was regarded by both sides of the House of Commons, with greater confidence and interest than any young member had attracted, perhaps, since the early days of Mr. Pitt. This will appear higher praise, when it is added, with truth, that no man coming into that House under the patronage of a whig nobleman, could have acted with greater liberality towards extended ideas of popular right, with more fairness and firmness to the persons of his opponents, or with more apparent latitude of individual judgment, on some of the most

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Mr. *C. Grant* “ had known his lamented friend before he had distinguished himself so much as he had subsequently done, and could not be silent when such an opportunity occurred of paying a tribute to his memory. Whatever difference of opinion they might have on public questions, he could suspend that difference to admire his talents, his worth, and his virtues. It was not his talents alone that were developed in his eloquence. His eloquence displayed his heart: through it were seen his high-minded probity, his philanthropy, his benevolence, and all those qualities which not only exacted applause but excited love. It was the mind that appeared in speeches that gave them character. He would not enter into the account of his private life, although his private virtues were at least on a level with his public merits. Amid all the cares and interests of public life, he never lost his relish for domestic society, or his attachment to his family. The last time that he (Mr. G.) conversed with him, he was anticipating with pleasure the arrival of a season of leisure, when he could spend a short time in the bosom of his family, and amid the endearments of his friends. When he looked at his public or private conduct, his virtues, or his talents, he would be allowed to have earned applause to which few other men ever entitled themselves.”

Lord *Lascelles* “ hoped to be excused for adding a few words to what had been said, though he had not the honour of a private acquaintance with Mr. Horner, whom he knew only in this House, where they had almost uniformly voted on opposite sides on every great question. Notwithstanding these differences, he had often said in private, that Mr. Horner was one of the greatest ornaments of his country; and he would now say in public, that the country could not have suffered a greater loss. The forms of Parliament allowed no means of expressing the collective opinion of the House, on the honour due to his memory; but it must be consolatory to his friends to see that if it had been possible to have come to such a vote, it would certainly have been unanimous.”

trying occasions, in all these scenes that have occurred in our recent parliamentary history.

“ He took a considerable part in the important financial, and especially Politico-economical, deliberations which have occupied public attention for the last seven years, and will be long remembered, as having in great part, if not wholly, constructed the far-famed report of the bullion committee; of the doctrines and recommendations of that production, men’s opinions differed at the time of its appearance, according as they were led, by a knowledge of the science, through which alone it could be rationally appreciated, by a sense of immediate expediency, or by the leanings of the leaders of their respective parties. But, considering the circumstances under which it was produced, the temper of the times, and the extent and varying aspect of those appearances and conditions which it had to reconcile into the shape of general principles, I may venture to affirm, that it abounds with more accurate evolution of important propositions and first truths in the science of political economy, than any document ever produced by a legislative body. Indeed, those who have been accustomed to note carefully the Parliamentary Debates since 1811, must have perceived that Mr. Horner had a better hold on the principles of that important science, than any Orator of his day.

“ As a public speaker, he was not remarkable for the popular graces and attractions. If eloquence consists in rousing the passions by strong metaphor, in awakening the sympathies by studied allusions, or in arresting attention by the sallies of a mind rich in peculiar association, Mr. Horner was not eloquent. But, if eloquence be the art of persuading by accurate reasoning, and a right adjustment of all the parts of a discourse, by the power of a *tact* which is rather *intellectually right*, than *practically fine*; Mr. H. was eloquent. He spoke with the steady calmness of one who *saw* his way *on principle*, while he *felt* it simply and immediately through *sobriety of judgment and good conduct*; and never seemed to be more excited by his subject, or more carried away in the vehemence

of debate, than to make such exertions as left one uniform impression on the minds of his hearers, that he spoke from an honest internal conviction, and from a real desire to be useful.

“ In private life, he was distinguished by an impressive graveness, which would have appeared heavy, had it not been observed in permanent conjunction with an easy steadiness of conversation, and a simplicity of manners very far from any thing odd, affected, or inelegant. His sense of honour was high and decided. His taste for literature, like his taste for conduct, was correct. As his acts of friendship or of duty were done without effort or finesse, so did he enjoy with quietness and relish, those tender and deeply felt domestic affections which can sweeten or even adorn, almost any condition of life. He was one of that powerful band of able and distinguished men, with which the Edinburgh Review originated, and was known as one of its contributors for several of the earlier years of its progress.

“ He was not fitted to win popularity, but, his habitual moderation, his unaffected respect for every thing respectable that was opposed to him, and the successful pains which he took to inform himself well on the grounds and nature of every business in which he bore a part, gained him an influence more valuable to a man of judgment, than popularity. In short, reckoning forward to the distance of probably a very few years, and to that change in his Majesty’s councils, which it was the object of Mr. Horner’s political life to accomplish, and under which he sincerely believed his country would be more free and more secure, than under any other probable event; no man seemed more likely to rise to high place and influence than himself.

“ In a crisis of public affairs like the present, unbiassed and upright politicians will admit, that the influence of men like him, is peculiarly desirable. And I would receive it as a consolation if any one could be at present named, to fill the space which he has left.”

To Raeburn, the great Scotch portrait painter, Mr. Horner sat for his picture some years before his demise. No engraving, we believe, has yet been made from it: it is a faithful likeness, and we trust, that the attachment of the surviving friends of the man, whose loss all seem to deplore, will have it transferred to copper, by the *burin* of some skilful engraver.

## No. XIV.

## THE HONOURABLE HENRY ERSKINE,

TWICE LORD ADVOCATE, AND ONCE DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF  
ADVOCATES.

THE house of Buchan has been always distinguished, either for the possession of high employments or the display of extraordinary talents. As a scion of the powerful stock which so long possessed the earldom of Mar, it traces its alliances to the blood-royal of Scotland, as well as to the ducal stems of Lenox and Roxburgh, and the noble ones of Morton, Findlater, and Dalhousie. Sir James Stewart, second son of Sir James Stewart, the *Black Knight of Lorn* was the founder of this family. John Stuart, son of John Earl of Buchan, having been killed at the battle of Musselborough in 1547, his daughter Christian, four years after, became a Countess, and married Robert Douglas, brother to William the sixth Earl of Buchan, who, in her right, enjoyed the honours of that house. Their grand-daughter Mary, having formed an alliance with Sir James Erskine, eldest son of John Earl of Mar, the succession to the Earldom of Buchan, which had before been in heirs-general, was, by patent under the great seal of Scotland, limited to heirs male.

So much for the descent of the subject of these memoirs ; and as to the offices held by his immediate progenitors, they were Lords High-Stewards, Lords Treasurers, Lords Great-Chamberlains of Scotland, Lords High Commissioners to the General Assembly, &c., &c., in succession. In our own time we have

beheld an Earl of Buchan neglected indeed, by ministers, and never sufficiently appreciated by his own countrymen, but possessing extraordinary genius and talents; his next surviving brother not only taking the lead, but selected twice to occupy the highest and most honourable office at the Scottish bar; while a third and youngest was ennobled in England, and became Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain.

The Honourable Henry Erskine, third son of Henry David Earl of Buchan, by Agnes, daughter of Sir James Stewart, of Coltness and Goodtrees, Bart., was born at Edinburgh, on the 1st of November, 1746, O. S.

His health being originally delicate, we have been given to understand that the early part of his education was of a domestic nature; a tutor \* possessing considerable talents, having been for some time resident under the paternal roof, who superintended the studies of the three brothers. They afterwards repaired to the college of St. Andrew's, which has been long famous for producing celebrated men; hence they were transferred, first to the university of Glasgow, and secondly to that of Edinburgh.

As his patrimonial fortune was not large, a profession became necessary for Henry, and the bar and the army presenting the only two avenues to fortune, usually trod by the sons of great families in Scotland, he was early destined for the law, while his younger brother, Thomas, at first adopted the sword, and lastly the gown.

Their father, Henry-David, the tenth Earl, deceasing in 1767, the Countess-Dowager, a pious and accomplished woman, after superintending their progress, lived until 1778, to enjoy the certainty of beholding her eldest son both opulent and respectable; while the endearing prospect was already opened to the eyes of a fond mother, of contemplating the junior branches advancing to eminence at the English and

\* Mr. James Buchanan of Glasgow. By his talents and his industry soon fitted Lord Cardross (become so by the demise of his eldest brother), and the two other sons of the last Earl of Buchan, in succession, for a neighbouring university.



Scottish bars, of which, indeed, they afterwards became the ornaments. Nor ought due praise to be omitted here, to the head of this distinguished family. With a noble and generous spirit, the present Earl of Buchan, voluntarily took upon himself the payment of his father's debts; and submitted to the severest privations, merely from a delicate sense of duty: for no existing law enforced a sacrifice so highly honourable both to his principles and feelings!

Meanwhile, the second brother prosecuted his studies at Edinburgh, attended the Court of Session, read the Scotch and foreign jurists, made himself familiar with the celebrated work of his countryman Craig \*, relative to a system still unhappily prevalent; and thus prepared himself to earn an honourable competence while a bachelor, and support a family with respectability when he should be inclined to marry.

At an early period of life, he was admitted a member of the faculty of Advocates, having then only attained the age of twenty-two. This, which exactly corresponds to "a call" to the English bar, took place in 1768, now nearly half a century ago! and at a time, too, when a taste for eloquence of any kind was not sufficiently cultivated in the northern parts of the island. The language, which at that period, exhibited but a very imperfect dialect of the English, was not favourable, perhaps, to oratory. The fatal suspension of trial by jury in civil cases, the proceedings by written rather than oral pleadings, and that law, which still renders unanimity in criminal trials unnecessary, nearly precluded all scope for genius and ability. It became necessary, indeed, to quote all the conflicting opinions in the books, to be familiar with the barbarous Latin, in which the still more barbarous feudal code is comprehended, and to obtain a *circumlocutory* facility of speech, in order to spin out the proceedings with an enormous but profitable verbosity. The judges, too — many of whom, like Monboddo and Kaimes, were men of singular learning, liberality,

\* De Feudis.

and accomplishments, — must be addressed according to obsolete forms, and in a whining cadence prescribed by custom; to have trenched on which, would have been unpardonable, in the presence of the “Lords of Council and Session,” some of whom, at that period, actually claimed the right of dispensing with acts of parliament, in virtue of what they affected to call the *nobile officium* !

It is but little wonder that oratory was at so low an ebb fifty years ago, both at the bar and the pulpit, although it would be uncandid to decide on the latter, by the specimens contained in the famous publication called “Scotch Presbyterian Eloquence displayed.” And yet, judging by the effects, it would be unfair to disallow that John Knox was a master of the human passions, which he wielded to his will, by means of the vernacular tongue. It is an unequivocal proof of this, indeed, that by the force of his arguments and the thunder of his declamations, he overawed both the Queen and the clergy of the existing establishment; that he caused the cathedrals and parish churches to be despoiled of their “popish ornaments,” and that, finally, he established the standard of a newer and a purer faith, on the smoking ruins of the prostrate Church of Rome.

As the Scottish bar, like the Scottish pulpit, had few or no great models to recur to, arts, which would assuredly be condemned at the present moment, were then practised with impunity.\* The civil law, which is the foundation of all that is eminent in jurisprudence on the northern bank of the Tweed, is not only uncertain in its foundations, bearings, and illustrations; it is not only ambiguous, equivocal, and dilatory, but it encourages, like the only court governed by its maxims in England, accumulated expence and endless litigation. Many admirable improvements have been lately enforced, indeed, by

\* It has been said that the speeches of a certain famous advocate of that day, were always regulated by circumstances. For a rich client he would sometimes storm and rage; and on great occasions (provided his fee was large), would, at a critical moment, burst into a flood of tears.

act of parliament : but such, or nearly such, was the actual state of forensic practice, when Mr. Henry Erskine presented himself in the outer court before the lord ordinary to obtain interlocutory judgments, and to creep on by due degrees, and at the regular and invarying pace of a snail, to a final judgment.

This gentleman possessed polished manners, an imagination warm and ardent, a judgment ripe and precocious. At an early age, he had cultivated the Muses, and refined both his mind and his language by poetry. These all operated, in a certain degree, to render him a conspicuous character, and to introduce a certain degree of grace and chastity, a change of no common magnitude, both in the pleadings and elocution of the courts of justice.

Another *arena*, of a very extraordinary kind soon after presented itself. This was the general assembly of the Kirk of Scotland, a representative body, in which both the clergy and the laity, appear annually by deputies from their respective synods, and parishes, at Edinburgh: This has been termed “the best theatre for deliberative eloquence, to be found in Scotland;” and it was here indeed, that the late indefatigable Henry Dundas (Viscount Melville), who left no moment of his life unoccupied, either with business or pleasure, first prepared himself for the more profitable contentions of the senate. It was here also that Henry Erskine, no longer trammelled by technical niceties, exhibited the first specimens of his oratory. As he possessed a deep sense of religion, even in his juvenile years, and was zealously attached from conviction, as well as education, to the Presbyterian faith; the superior excellence of this system, both in respect to tenets and discipline, was always maintained and asserted by him. These orthodox sentiments, joined to a due consideration of his talents and his lineage, of course rendered him respectable in no common degree, in the eyes of his colleagues; and accordingly, he was always listened to with the greatest deference and attention.

Meanwhile, his practice encreased apace, and his abilities soon made him sought after, from the shores of the Forth, to the extremities of Caithness. In addition to this, as he always distinguished himself greatly when he undertook to rescue innocence from persecution; to vindicate the cause of the oppressed, or to support the claims of the friendless tenant, against the encroachments or injustice of his *Laird*, he soon became a very popular advocate. Nor was his opinion as a lawyer neglected: for no one could give a readier answer to a case, or unravel the mysterious diversity of the municipal law, with superior acuteness and precision.

So early as 1770, we find that his poetry breathed something of a scorn of pride, and oppression, as will be seen from the following hitherto *unpublished* specimen, written at that period.

*The Sensitive Plant and the Nettle, a Fable.*

How oft, neglected and forlorn,  
Do high-sprung worth and merit lie,  
While wealth and power, though basely born,  
Lift their unworthy heads on high.

How oft are sense and genius bright  
Denied the *poor* reward of praise;  
How many, modest merit slight,  
While gilded dulness wears the bays.

His bosom wrung with anguish keen,  
How oft we meet the slighted youth,  
On whose pale cheek too well is seen  
That wealth prevails o'er love and truth.

Deep-mark'd with scars, sore-worn with toil,  
Low lies the hero's hoary head; —  
While striplings share his hard-won spoil,  
Helpless his orphans weep for bread.

The patriot's worth, the poet's fires,  
And science fair, neglected die ;  
Sweet charity herself expires,  
Nor shuts one grateful hand her eye.

Sweet Philomel thus pours her strain  
Where only echo hears the song ;  
Thus sheds the rose her sweets in vain  
Some stream's untrodden bank along.

Yet not less sweet the scent or song,  
Though wasted on the desert air :  
Though found among the humble throng,  
Truth, sense, and virtue still are fair.

Then droop not thou, whom fate unkind,  
Poor and unknown, has doom'd to dwell ;  
The muse thy lone retreat shall find,  
Shall visit oft thy humble cell.

Nor mourn, ye brave, though cowards live,  
To wear the laurels won by you ;  
Here or hereafter, Heaven shall give  
The prize to worth and valour due.

To soothe with hope your humble state,  
To keep alive fair virtue's fires,  
Read (and unmurmuring yield to fate)  
The simple tale the muse inspires.

Within the garden's sheltered bound,  
The florist's art, the florist's care,  
With every hue had deck'd the ground,  
With every scent perfum'd the air.

The nipping frost, the driving snow,  
The chilling wind and beating rain,  
Though deep they fall, and fiercely blow,  
There deal their baleful blasts in vain.

Though Sol his genial ray denies,  
And morn refuse her dew to lend,  
There artificial suns arise,  
There artificial showers descend.

Within these bowers, full many a flower,  
The native of benigner skies,  
Such as might grace Hesperian bower,  
Or fairy grove, were seen to rise.

Even flowers, by nature's hand design'd,  
Mid savage wilds unknown to grow,  
Transplanted and by care refin'd,  
Were taught both fair and sweet to blow.

Just such a fostering power is thine,  
And virtue such dost thou bestow,  
Oh, education, source divine,  
From which truth, worth, and wisdom flow.

Yet midst these beds, full many a weed,  
In spite of care would often spring ;  
For thoughtless zephyr bore the seed,  
And dropt it from his wanton wing.

And many a fair and fragrant flower,  
Fall'n from the sower's careless hand,  
Spite of the sweetly-fostering shower,  
Died on the waste and barren sand.

So many a heart of fire sublime,  
Unknown and friendless, lives and dies,  
While meaner souls, by fortune, climb  
The heights where fame's proud turrets rise.

On the hard, bleak, and barren mould  
The plant for soft sensation known,  
'Twas thus the tale a florist told,  
Was dropt unshelter'd and alone.

From the rude wind and dashing rain,  
Instinctive shrunk its tender leaf,  
For shelter while it sought in vain,  
Low hung its head in silent grief.

Its humble plight and look forlorn,  
Soon caught a neighbouring nettle's eyes,  
That lately, on the light breeze borne,  
Midst Flora's favourites dar'd to rise.

There fixed its root the worthless seed,  
And, by the florist long unseen,  
Thriving it grew; for evil weed  
Full quick and strongly springs I ween.

'Avaunt!' th' ungenerous upstart cried,  
'Nor taint with sighs the balmy air,  
'That fans the garden's flowery pride,  
'Where I am fairest of the fair.

'In vain, of destiny severe,  
'Or, envying me, of fate complain;  
'Justly it arm'd and placed me here,  
'And justly *thus* bids me remain.'

Thus spoke the nettle, proud and sour,  
While zephyr sigh'd along the beds;  
A tear stood bright on every flow'r,  
And pity bow'd their lovely heads.

'Proud weed,' the gentle sufferer said,  
'That look'st on humble worth with scorn,  
'Thy malice shall behold me dead,  
'Ere joyful dawns another morn.

'Yet know, though thus I early fall,  
'No hidden crimes have work'd my fate:  
'Tis fortune, blind alike to all,  
'That ruins me, and makes thee great.

- ‘ Canst thou behold yon ruin’d mound,  
 ‘ Where all thy noxious kindred grow,  
 ‘ Yet dare the gentle heart to wound.  
 ‘ And proudly scoff at honest woe.  
  
 ‘ While I, whose worth let others tell,  
 ‘ My feeling form who fondly rear,  
 ‘ My rising rage with pity quell,  
 ‘ Foresec *thy* end, and drop a tear.  
  
 ‘ The glorious orb, whose genial ray  
 ‘ Call’d into life thy boasted form,  
 ‘ Low in the dust thy pride can lay,  
 ‘ And save my weakness from the storm.’

He spoke : The sun was gliding low,  
 And damps hung heavy in the air,  
 The florist ’gan his rounds to go,  
 To guard from harm his flowery care.

With scorn, the nettle’s worthless root,  
 From its warm seat, he instant tore,  
 And in its place the sufferer put,  
 Ne’er to know pain or sorrow more.”

The following *jeu d’esprit*, was written exactly thirty years after, on perusing the first production of the author of *Lalla Rookh* :

*Impromptu on reading Moore’s Anacreon.*

- “ Oh ! mourn not for Anacreon dead —  
 Oh ! weep not for Anacreon fled —  
 The lyre still breathes he touched before,  
 For we have one Anacreon Moore.”

The period had now arrived when Mr. Erskine thought proper to become a married man ; but this he did not attempt until he deemed his independence secured. His first wife was Christina, the only daughter of George Fullarton, Esq., Col-



lector of the Customs at Leith; and by this lady he had three daughters, Elizabeth-Frances, who died young; Elizabeth-Crompton, afterwards Mrs. Callender; and Henrietta, now Mrs. Smith; together with two sons, Henry \* and George.—Although the lady, who was an heiress, brought him a handsome fortune; yet this circumstance did not tend to relax his industry; but, on the contrary, the sight of an increasing family contributed not a little to increase his assiduity, and render him more careful and attentive than before.

We have already contemplated Mr. Erskine in the character of a lawyer, and a poet; but it still remains for us to consider him as a politician. George Buchanan, the preceptor of James VI. in his famous tract, “*De Jure regni apud Scotos*,” affects to consider his native country as a republic! and he lays down rules, in the first place, for checking any small deviation on the side of arbitrary power; and in the next, for punishing any gross assumption on the part of the executive.—Notwithstanding this, it is evident from history, that the kings of Scotland, in the ordinary exercise of the prerogative, were for many ages omnipotent, both in Parliament and the inferior courts. In the reign of Charles II., however, the oppressions of the Duke of Lauderdale, and others, were so notorious, even in matters of conscience, that a sullen and settled opposition took place, and a love of religious and civil liberty, which had first evinced itself in the time of Mary, and was fostered by the masculine and audacious spirit of the great Scotch reformer, burst out at the Revolution, in the southern counties, when William III. assumed the throne of both kingdoms. It has even been said that the word whig (*whiggan*) is indebted for its origin to the covenanters in the west of Scotland; but the principle made but little progress in the northern parts of the United Kingdom, until the battle of Culloden in 1745, put an end to all the hopes and pretensions of the house of Stewart.

\* Mr. Henry Erskine, the presumptive heir to the Earldom of Buchan, in 1811, married the eldest daughter of the late Sir Charles Shipley.

Mr. Henry Erskine, like his elder brother, was a whig, and that too at a period, when it was scarcely possible to avow it with impunity, "in the gude auld toune of Edinborough!"—The members of this distinguished family, however, boldly asserted their right to a freedom of thought and of discussion; and openly stigmatised the American war, as hostile both in its origin and progress, to the constitution. At the conclusion of that contest, the merits of the subject of this memoir were not forgotten; indeed it would have been impossible to have overlooked them: for he was now, if not the very first, yet in the foremost rank at the Scotch bar; and in short, almost the only constitutional lawyer of any distinguished talents there. Accordingly, when Lord North, (afterwards Earl of Guilford,) was reluctantly driven from power, and the Rockingham administration came into place, the office of Lord-Advocate of Scotland, a post far more important than that of Attorney-General in England, was conferred on Mr. Henry Erskine.—This occurred in 1802, after which he was immediately nominated a member of Parliament. But his opportunities to support the new administration were few, on account of its ephemeral existence. On its retreat he was immediately stripped of his official dignity, without any manner of ceremony whatsoever, and his place instantly supplied, by a new candidate for office, whose principles were doubtless more pliant, as well as more conformable to the wishes of the minister. Twelve years pertinacious retention of power on the part of Mr. Pitt, who has been deemed by some, an eloquent rather than either a great or a successful minister, precluded all hope of reinstatement, or advancement, on the part of a man, who always exhibited an unvarying uniformity to his principles.—One honourable and independent station, however, became the object of a laudable ambition; it was indeed unaccompanied by any emoluments whatsoever, but on the other hand, it had been occupied and adorned by the greatest and most distinguished practitioners at the Scottish bar. This was the office

of Dean of the Faculty of Advocates, to which all the members are entitled to elect, and which was now obtained in a manner honourable to both parties.

Yet even this distinction was at length envied the possessor; and, as if to mortify both himself and his party, an active canvass took place, a new candidate presented himself; and a majority of this great juridical corporation, influenced by the open smiles of power, seemed to be as eager to depose, as they had been before anxious to appoint him.

In 1806, when Mr. Fox again returned to office, overwhelmed by disease rather than by years, Mr. Thomas Erskine was nominated Lord Chancellor, and his brother Henry once more became Lord Advocate. On this occasion he was returned member for a district of *Burghs*\*, in the last session of the second Imperial Parliament, which met Jan. 21, 1806, in the room of Major Dalrymple, who accepted of the Chiltern Hundreds to make way for him. On the dissolution, which soon after ensued, he was re-elected without opposition. This, however, like the former Whig administration, at the close of the American war, was not suffered to continue long in power; and on its dismissal, Mr. H. Erskine, found his seat in Parliament supplied at the next dissolution by Sir J. H. Maxwell, Bart.

It was thus, that although twice Lord Advocate, he did not remain in office above two years and a half, during the course of a long life; and accordingly had a glimpse rather than a full possession of power. It can never be said, however, that he abused his high station by any undue exertion of power; or disgraced himself by an equivocal assumption of prerogative. The claims of this great officer of state have now become happily *obsolete*; in remote times, he exercised a degree of authority utterly incompatible with a free government; and even in our own days, a parliamentary enquiry disclosed such a flagrant act of injustice, in a remote county, that even the

\* Dumfries, Kircudbright, Sanquhar, Anan, and Lochmaben.

shield of power could not shelter the perpetrator from well-merited reproach.

At length, Mr. Erskine's constitution began to give way to the pressure of disease; and his good sense wisely induced him, on this occasion, to withdraw from the bar. This occurred in 1812, and the five remaining years of his life were chequered, or rather consumed by maladies of various kinds. On this occasion, he occasionally had recourse to travel, and came to England, where he resided for some time. At other periods he frequented the watering and sea-bathing places, but without finding relief. Medical aid having also proved unavailing, at length his amiable and unhappy wife\* and family were reluctantly forced to despair of his recovery. Their fears proved but too true, for he died at his country seat, in West Lothian, on the 8th of October, 1817, when he had nearly completed the 71st year of his age.

In his person, Mr. Henry Erskine was tall and genteel; in point of height, he surpassed both his brothers; and in the first bloom of youth was considered handsome in no common degree. Although a man of great gaiety, his habits were fortunately, both for himself and family, of a domestic nature. Even in the early part of his life he was temperate; and in the latter part abstemious. It has been observed of men of wit in general, that they delight and fascinate every where but at home; — yet *at home*, he was ever most pleasant; and although he denied himself the enjoyment of all expensive pleasures, yet, so far as his means extended, he was ever indulgent to those around him.

Mr. Erskine was always addicted to a country life. He talked of cultivating his lands at Ammondell†, with delight; and when in London, we have heard him indulge in the rapturous hope of returning to gather in his harvest! When he

\* His former lady having died, in 1804, he afterwards married Mrs. Turnbull, formerly Miss Munro.

† This originally formed part of the patrimonial estate, and was transferred to his second brother, by the present Earl, about the year 1795, to serve as a retreat from the fatigues of business, during the vacation.

withdrew from practice, he accordingly spent the greater part of his life in this rural retreat. He had constructed a beautiful little villa and created the scenery around it, in strict conformity to his own taste; and in employments such as these passed the remainder of his life. This was a most fortunate circumstance; for a great man in retirement is generally the unhappiest animal in the creation.

He was fond of wit, and enjoyed a good joke better than any man; nay, he would not disdain even a *pun*, either in verse\* or in prose. No one exhibited, either in his person or practice, a greater portion of the social affections; and such was the happy texture of his temper, and the indescribable buoyancy of his spirits, that disease itself could neither subdue the constancy of his mind, nor entirely deprive him of that playful gaiety for which he was so eminently distinguished.

It is no small proof of the general respect prevalent at this moment, for the memory of this amiable gentleman, that his virtues and talents have already been commemorated by three distinguished persons. The Earl of Buchan, unable to afford vent for the extremity of his fraternal grief, in his own language, has had recourse to that of Cicero :

*“ Mihi quidem frater meus, quanquam nunc creptus, vivet, tamen, semperque vivet : virtutem enim amavi illius fratris, quæ extincta non est. Nec mihi soli versatur ante oculos, qui illam semper in manibus habeo, sed etiam posteris erit clara et insignis !*

*“ Equidem ex omnibus rebus, quas mihi aut fortuna aut natura tribuit, nihil habui, quod cum amicitia fratris mei possim comparare.”*

The following observations have been attributed to Mr. Jefferies, an advocate, and a man of letters, of no small distinction :

\* EPIGRAM.

“ On that high bench where Kenyon holds his seat,  
England may boast that Truth and Justice meet :  
But in a northern court, where *Pride* commands the chair,  
Oppression holds the scales, and Judgment's lost in *Ayr* !”

“ In his long and splendid career at the bar, Mr. Erskine was distinguished, not only by the peculiar brilliancy of his wit, and the gracefulness, ease, and vivacity of his eloquence, but by the still rarer power of keeping those seductive qualities in perfect subordination to his judgment. By their assistance, he could not only make the most repulsive subjects agreeable, but the most abstruse, easy and intelligible. In his profession, indeed, all his wit was argument, and each of his delightful illustrations, a material step in his reasoning. To himself it seemed always as if they were recommended rather for their use than their beauty. And unquestionably they often enabled him to state a fine argument or a nice distinction.”

The following tribute is from the pen of a friend :

“ The character of Mr. Erskine’s eloquence bore a strong resemblance to that of his noble brother, (Lord Erskine) but being much less *diffusive*, it was better calculated to leave a forcible impression : he had the art of concentrating his ideas, and presenting them at once in so luminous and irresistible a form, as to render his hearers masters of the view he took of his subject ; which, however dry or complex in its nature, never failed to become entertaining and instructive in his hands ; for, to professional knowledge of the highest order, he united a most extensive acquaintance with history, literature, and science ; and a thorough conversancy with human life and moral and political philosophy. The writer of this article has witnessed, with pleasure and astonishment, the widely different emotions excited by the amazing powers of his oratory ; fervid and affecting in the extremest degree, when the occasion called for it ; and no less powerful, in opposite circumstances, by the potency of wit and the brilliancy of comic humour, which constantly excited shouts of laughter throughout the precincts of the court, — the mirthful glee even extending itself to the crinied sages, who found too much amusement in the scene to check the fascinating actor of it. He assisted the great powers of his understanding by an indefatigable industry, not commonly annexed to extraordinary genius ; and he kept his mind open for the admission of knowledge, by the most unaffected modesty of deportment. The harmony of his

periods, and the accuracy of his expressions, in his most unpremeditated speeches, were not among the least of his oratorical accomplishments.

“ In the most rapid of his flights, when his tongue could scarce keep pace with his thoughts, he never failed to seize the choicest words in the treasury of our language. The apt, beautiful, and varied images which constantly decorated his judicial addresses, suggested themselves instantaneously, and appeared, like the soldiers of Cadmus, in complete armour and array to support the cause of their creator, the most remarkable feature of whose eloquence was, that it never made him swerve by one hair-breadth from the minuter details most befitting his purpose; for, with matchless skill, he rendered the most dazzling oratory subservient to the uses of consummate *special pleading*, so that his prudence and sagacity as an advocate, were as decisive as his speeches were splendid.

“ Mr. Erskine’s attainments, as we have before observed, were not confined to a mere acquaintance with his professional duties; he was an elegant classical scholar, and an able mathematician; and he also possessed many minor accomplishments in great perfection. His knowledge of music was correct, and his execution on the violoncello most pleasing. In all the various relations of private life, Mr. Erskine’s character was truly estimable, and the just appreciation of his virtues extended far beyond the circle of his own family and friends; and it is a well authenticated fact, that a writer (or, as we should say, attorney) in a distant part of Scotland, representing to an oppressed and needy tacksman, who had applied to him for advice, the futility of entering into a lawsuit with a wealthy neighbour, having himself no means of defending his cause, received for answer, “ Ye dinna ken what ye say, Maister, there’s nae a puir man in Scotland need to *want a friend* or *fear an enemy* while *Harry Erskine* lives!” How much honour does that simple sentence convey to the generous and benevolent object of it! He had, indeed, a claim to the affection and respect of all who were within the knowledge of his extraordinary talents, and more uncommon virtues.

“ With a mind that was superior to fear and incapable of corruption, regulated by undeviating principles of integrity and uniformity, elevated in *adversity* as in prosperity, neither subdued by pleasure into effeminacy, nor sunk into dejection by distress; — in no situation of his life was he ashamed or afraid of discharging his duty, but constant to the God whom he worshipped, he evinced his confidence in the faith he professed, *by his actions*; to his friends he was *faithful*, to his enemies *generous*, ever ready to sacrifice his little private interests and pleasures to what he conceived to be the public welfare, or to the domestic felicity of those around him. In the words of an eloquent writer he was ‘ a man to choose for a *superior*, to trust as a *friend*, and to love as a *brother* :’ the ardency of his efforts to promote the happiness of his fellow-creatures, was a prominent feature in his character; his very faults had their origin in the excessive confidence of too liberal a spirit, the uncircumscribed beneficence of too warm a heart. It has been remarked of a distinguished actor, that he was less to be envied whilst receiving the meed of universal applause, than at the head of his own table: the observation may justly be applied to Mr. Erskine. In no sphere was the lustre of his talents more conspicuous, while the unaffected grace and suavity of his manners, the benevolent smile that illumined his intelligent countenance in the exercise of the hospitalities of the social board, rendered indeed a meeting at his house ‘ a feast of reason, and a flow of soul.’ In person Mr. Erskine was above the middle size, well proportioned but slender; his features were all *character* and most strikingly expressive of the rare qualities of his *mind*. In early life his carriage was remarkably graceful — dignified and impressive as occasion required it; in manner he was gentle, playful, and unassuming, and so persuasive was his address, that he never failed to attract attention, and by the spell of irresistible fascination to fix, and enchain it. His voice was powerful and melodious, his enunciation uncommonly accurate and distinct, and there was a peculiar *grace* in his utterance which enhanced the value of all he said, and engraved the remembrance of it



indelibly on the minds of his hearers. For many years of his life, Mr. Erskine had been the victim of ill health, but the native sweetness of his temper remained unclouded, and during the painfully protracted sufferings of his last illness, the language of complaint was never heard to escape his lips, nor the shadow of discontent seen to cloud his countenance ! ‘ Nothing in his life became him, like the leaving it,’ he looked patiently forward to the termination of his painful existence, and received with mild complacency the intelligence of his danger, while the ease and happiness of those, whose felicity through life had been his primary consideration, were never absent from his thoughts. It is said, that Swift, after having written that celebrated satire on mankind, *Gulliver’s Travels*, exclaimed whilst meditating on the rare virtues of his friend Arbuthnot. “ Oh ! were there ten Arbuthnots in the world, I would burn my book.” — It is difficult to contemplate such a character as Mr. Erskine’s without a similar sentiment, without feeling, that were there many Erskines, one should learn to think better of mankind. The general voice placed him, while living, high among the illustrious characters of the present age ; may the humble memorial the author is giving to the public, preserve his name unblemished by misrepresentation, till some more equal pen shall hand it down to posterity, as a bright example of what great usefulness extraordinary talents may prove to society, when under the direction of sound judgment, incorruptible integrity, and enlarged philanthropy.”

It is not a little singular, that it is doubtful at this moment whether a good portrait of Mr. Henry Erskine actually exists ; but the chisel of Turnerelli has happily supplied this omission ; and it is to be hoped, that as the noble library of the Faculty of Advocates at Edinburgh is to be graced with a bust of Mr. Horner, that a due tribute to the memory of their worthy and lamented dean will not be forgotten.

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

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No. XV.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE  
GEORGE WILLIAM EVELYN, EARL OF ROTHES.

ONE OF THE SIXTEEN REPRESENTATIVE PEERS OF SCOTLAND,  
AND COLONEL OF THE SURREY YEOMANRY.

THE Leslie, now nearly at the head of the Earls in the Scottish Peerage, are of a very ancient family and high descent. They were of foreign origin, and the first of that name in Great Britain, was Bartholdus Lesley, one of the Hungarian *Magnates*, who in the year 1086, attended Margaret Atheling, the wife of King Malcolm Canmore, into Scotland. There his merits, in addition to his services to that princess, were deemed so considerable, that King Malcolm gave him his own sister in marriage: and besides many large possessions, made him Governor of Edinburgh Castle, a place which, under his management, became of the highest consequence to the reigning family; for he is said to have fortified it, for the first time, according to the rules of art which he had learned abroad.

From him descended George Leslie, created Lord Leslie, Earl of Rothes, by James II. in 1457.

We learn from another source, that Bartholomew de Leslyn, possessed the barony of Leslyn, in Aberdeenshire, so early as 1165; and that his descendant George, was honoured with the earldom alluded to above; but that the precise date is uncertain, being between the years 1455 and 1459. William the third Earl lost his life at the fatal battle of Flodden field; and his eldest son George appears to have been one of those zealous reformers, who, in 1546, seized on the castle of Cardinal Beaton at St. Andrew's, "and," says Robertson, "delivered their country, though by a most unjustifiable action, from an ambitious man, whose pride was insupportable to the nobles, as his cruelty and cunning were the great checks to the Reformation."

The fourth Earl of Rothés attended Queen Mary to France, in order to be espoused by the Dauphin; John, the sixth Earl, joined the Covenanters; but being one of the deputies from Scotland to Charles I., then in captivity, was gained over, according to Burnet, by the hopes of marrying the "Countess of Devonshire, a rich and magnificent lady."

His son John fought for Charles II. at Worcester, and returned with the King after his exile. His favour now became preponderant at court, for he was Lord High Treasurer, Lord Keeper of the Great Seal, Lord Chancellor, &c. Dr. Burnet says, "the King loved him, though it was a very extravagant thing to see one man possess so many of the chief places of so poor a kingdom." In 1680, he was created Duke of Rothés, Marquis of Ballinbriech and Cuskieberrie; but as his Grace died without male issue, the patent, in consequence of the limitations, expired with himself.

Margaret, the eldest daughter, having married Charles Hamilton, the fifth Earl of Haddington, their son John became the eighth Earl of Rothés. On the accession of George I. he was appointed Lord High Admiral of Scotland, and died in 1722. John, the ninth Earl, was a Lieutenant-General, and had a regiment of guards, and his only son John, dying,

in 1773, without male issue, was succeeded by his eldest sister.

George William Evelyn Leslie, the eleventh Earl of Rothes was the son of George Raymond Evelyn, Esq., by Jane Elizabeth Countess of Rothes. He was born March 28, 1768, and after receiving the usual education, settled in England, where he married twice. His first wife was Lady Henrietta Anna Pelham, eldest daughter of Thomas Earl of Chichester; with this lady, to whom he became united May 24, 1789, he had no male issue; there were, however, three daughters, *viz.* Henrietta-Anne, Amelia \*, and Mary. The Countess dying on December 5th, 1797, in August 1798, his lordship espoused Charlotte-Julia, daughter of Colonel John Campbell, of Dunoon, and here again there were no male children, but two females, Elizabeth-Jane, and Georgiana, the latter of whom is since dead.

In 1810, the Earl of Rothes succeeded to the titles, and some estates still vested in the family, among which is the *Seignory* of Rothes, a lordship on the banks of the Spey, a few miles distant from Elgin in the county of Moray. His lordship, however, never lived in Scotland, having resided for many years in the county of Surrey.

As he possessed but a small patrimony, the Earl was assisted by means of a pension from the crown, which ceased at his demise. He was extremely loyal, and was the first to move addresses of congratulation, &c. His lordship also commanded the yeomanry cavalry in the vicinity of Wimbledon, Wandsworth, &c., for many years.

His eldest daughter, Lady Henrietta, now Countess of Rothes, married a person of the name of Jenkins, who afterwards kept a botanical garden in the New Road, near Paddington, by whom she has several children, and with whom she appears to be happy. Her conduct has been strictly modest, prudent, and exemplary.

\* Lady Amelia Leslie died at Long-Ditton, soon after the demise of her father the late Earl.

The death of her father, the late Earl, was sudden if not singular: having been taken ill while on horseback, not on a journey, but while enjoying a ride, and carried to the house of H. Peters, Esq., of Betchworth Castle, where he expired February 10th, 1817.

As a legislator, the Earl of Rothes was not prominent; he, however, in his character of one of the sixteen peers of Scotland, seconded the dutiful and respectful address which was moved at the opening of the present parliament, and acquitted himself with a considerable share of ability, on that occasion. His demise is supposed to have arisen from the bursting of a blood vessel.

## No. XVI.

CHARLES COMBE, M. D. F. R. S. AND A. S.

**T**HIS gentleman was a native of London, having been born in that great city on the 23d of September 1743. His father, an eminent and wealthy apothecary in Southampton Street, Bloomsbury, determined to give him a good education, and doubtless had the profession of medicine in his view, from the very first. He was accordingly sent to Harrow school, of which Dr. Thackeray was then head master. There his contemporaries were of no vulgar kind; for besides several others of some note, he reckoned among his friends and playfellows, the present Dr. Parr, who afterwards became one of the instructors in that seminary, of which he has been always considered both as the ornament and the pride. With the late Sir William Jones, who went to India in the obscure situation of a *puisne* Judge, a post utterly unworthy of his great talents and acquirements, he was particularly intimate; he admired his rare and singular merits; he cultivated his valuable and lasting friendship; he was privy to all his plans, and he preserved a continued and uninterrupted intercourse with him, until his departure for Bengal, where he expired, a prey to one of the many diseases of that climate.

Meanwhile, on leaving Harrow, Mr. Combe returned to his father's house, and under the paternal roof, applied himself both to the study and practice of the healing art. His knowledge of the learned languages furnished a key to the theory; the lectures of professional men, conveyed an idea of the present state of medicine; while the hospitals afforded an insight into new and uncommon cases. In 1768, when he was only twenty-five years of age, in consequence of the demise

of his father, John, he succeeded to his practice, and confined himself for a considerable time, exactly to the same line.

In the course of the next year, he married Miss Taylor, by whom he has two surviving children, out of four, who were born in consequence of this union, which lasted during the long period of thirty years; that lady died in 1799.

As Mr. Combe was known to be a man, who to an excellent education superadded considerable talents, and an unblemished character, his company and conversation were greatly courted. Nor was he averse to such distinctions as men of learning usually aspire to; for so early as 1771, he became a member of the Society of Antiquaries; and in the course of five years more, was nominated a fellow of the Royal Society.

It was not until the year 1783, however, that he attained to any professional eminence. As he had not been educated at an English University, he could not obtain a degree either at Oxford or Cambridge; his friends therefore applied in his name to Glasgow; and his certificate was so respectably signed, and his respectability so well established, that no difficulty whatsoever was found in conferring the title of M. D. As this, however, did not entitle him to practise either in London, or seven miles around the metropolis, he applied to the College of Physicians, offered to submit to an examination, and was accordingly nominated a "licentiate," without any obstacle. His habits and practice pointed at the lucrative and respectable station of an *accoucheur*, which had procured such an immense accession of opulence to his friend, the late Dr. William Hunter. This gentleman like himself, had advanced from the very bottom of the profession, and obtained the doctorate at the University of Glasgow, after he had arrived at a mature age. The career of the former, however, although less brilliant, was respectable; and he became, first, Physician in Ordinary, and then Physician Extraordinary to the British Lying-in-Hospital, in Brownlow Street. His private practice was also both considerable, and advantageous; and had it not been for his literary, and scientific pursuits, which we are now

about to enumerate, there can be no doubt, but he would have obtained, perhaps the very first eminence in midwifery.

While at Harrow, Dr. Coombe had exhibited a marked attachment for classical attainments, and classical investigation : indeed, it was impossible for the school-fellow of a Jones, and a Parr, to remain devoid of a taste of this kind. The French, with less learning, perhaps, have cultivated medallic history, more than the English, and the fine bronzes struck during the reign of Louis XVI., notwithstanding the poverty of the subjects which they celebrate, and the bombastic nature of their inscriptions, have not a little contributed to form, or at least, to encourage this pursuit, which is connected in no small degree with their national glory.

Dr. Charles Combe, possessed a similar taste, but it was of a far more chaste and classical description. The study of ancient medals, as connected with ancient manners, and ancient history, was a career then open, and indeed, new to the modern antiquary in this country. His early essays proved successful to a certain degree, for they in the first place tended not a little to diffuse his reputation, and in the next, introduced him to the notice of the late Dr. William Hunter, with whom he was connected by the ties of an uninterrupted friendship, during the long space of twenty-five years ; and which was at last only dissolved by the death of one of the parties.

This great anatomist, and man-midwife, without being, perhaps, a very *learned man*, in the strict sense of that term, possessed a noble passion for at once distinguishing himself, and creating an unrivalled museum for the service of posterity.

As he had not any children, and possessed an immense annual revenue, the Dr. first formed a splendid anatomical collection, at his house in Windmill Street, which was commenced, perhaps with a view to the accommodation of the numerous students from all countries, who crowded to his lectures. His views were next extended to natural history, including the finest specimens of shells, minerals, crystals, corals, &c. As his fortune encreased, so did his plans enlarge ; for his apartments were soon after lined with a magnificent display of



books, which actually formed a literary *desideratum*, as they contained a treasure of Greek and Roman learning. But his assemblage of Greek and Roman coins, in the acquisition of which, both at home and abroad, no expence was spared, soon bid defiance to competition in this island; and at length rivalled the best cabinets of certain continental sovereigns, the entire revenues of whose subjects, are at their sole disposal. So princely a collection of medals, had never before been purchased by any single collector, however rich or ambitious, as by this one English physician, during a period of about twenty-six years; and his cabinet eminently excelled in its rare series of the coins of the Grecian Kings.

It was in this cabinet, that Dr. Combe immured himself, almost daily, during many hours; but it was towards the Roman history, in which he was doubtless a considerable proficient, that he now directed his views. The Cæsars in particular, designated on *large brass*, had long attracted his attention, and he was ambitious to write dissertations on all these medals; but his labours, which commenced with the usurper Julius, extended no further than the tyrant Domitian. The title of this work, as well as its date, will be found in the subjoined catalogue; it was dedicated to the Marquis of Rockingham, then in the height of his reputation: "*magnum, et venerabile nomen gentibus.*"

After an interval of eight or nine years, Dr. Combe published the medallic history of the free cities of Greece; and so rare and so rich was the collection whence he derived his materials, that on this occasion, there appeared no fewer than sixty-five plates of inedited coins.

These two works served merely as specimens of this celebrated cabinet; and foreigners now, for the first time, began to turn their eyes to Britain, as a country peculiarly favoured in respect to numismatic riches. Eckhel, who then superintended the fine cabinet of medals at Vienna, collected during a series of years by such fortunate members of the House of Austria, as had attained to the imperial purple, paid many well merited compliments to the subject of this memoir on the

present occasion, and he terms this a great and illustrious undertaking, in his work on ancient coins.”\*

It was the intention of Dr. Combe, to have extended his description to the whole of the precious contents of this rare assemblage; but the death of Dr. Hunter, in the course of the succeeding year †, after the publication of Part II, precluded his further labours. At his demise, however, he found himself named in conjunction with Dr. David Pitcairn, and Dr. George Fordyce, his executors, and to these gentlemen, together with his nephew Dr. Bailie, whose name was as yet hardly known, were left the sole use and enjoyment of his whole cabinet, during the space of thirty years. It is no less wonderful than true, that all these gentlemen either lived nearly to, or have survived that remote period, distant as it then appeared! According to the will of the Doctor, it was then by a special clause, bequeathed in perpetuity to the University of Glasgow, which had conferred on him the degree of M. D.

After a long interval, Dr. Combe resumed his classical labours, which had now taken a different direction. Having formed a literary association, with his old school-fellow Dr. Parr, and the Rev. Henry Homer, M. A. of Emanuel College, Cambridge, it was determined to publish an elegant edition of Horace *cum notis variorum*. The Text of Gesner, the Index of Treter, and the best notes of the best Commentators, were all to be adopted; while the seven valuable manuscripts in the British Museum, were at the same time to

\* “Illustre hoc opus continet partem thesauri numismatici quem Hunterus artis anatomicæ ævo suo facile princeps coemptis ingenti sumptu plurimis museis, quæ in procœmio recensentur, ad prodigium auxit.

“Nummorum catalogus a Combio erudite, intide, et accurate contextus est, subjectis ad calcem rariorum aut aeneatorum copiosis tabulis æneis. Ut thesauri hujus incredibiles copias et præstantiam non possumus satis admirari, ita dolemus, una cum Huntero exspirasse quoque spem nobis in eodem procœmio ostentatam, fore ut, quo cœptum est, more lucem etiam videant classes aliæ, videlicet numi peregrina lingua inscripti, nummi regum, nummi imperatorum in coloniis et Græcis urbibus cusi, nummi Romanorum inediti, nummi Saxonici et Anglici. Sed hæc credo nostra vota pridem abstalere ventis, piis tantum desideriis nobis relictis.” Doct. Num. Vet. p. clxx.

† On March 30, 1783.

be recurred to, both for the *various readings*, as well as illustration.

But Dr. Parr, the Atlas of this great undertaking, is said to have declined, in consequence of which the labour at first chiefly devolved on Mr. Homer, who is said to have been a most accurate editor of editions of the *prose* classics, but less fitted for an undertaking like the present. Yet, such was the conscientious diligence exerted by this gentleman to fulfil his engagements with the public; and such the vexation and disappointment incurred by him in the course of his efforts, that his health yielded beneath the pressure, and even life itself is said to have been actually shortened on this very account.

On the demise of his coadjutor, the remainder of the first volume, and the whole of the second, were prepared for and conducted through the press solely by Dr. Combe, who on this occasion unluckily invoked no other aid or assistance. It was published in 1793, and dedicated to the venerable Earl of Mansfield, an engraving of whose portrait is prefixed.

It is greatly to be lamented, that Dr. Parr was unable to fulfil his original engagement: for many obvious blunders in the Greek quotations in the notes, would have been instantly rectified. These soon caught his eagle eye, and in an able review, which appeared in the *British Critic*, experienced all the severity of his animadversion. His pen, like the spear of Abdiel, readily pointed them out; and thus the conjoint labours of a Homer and a Combe were scattered in the dust. It must be allowed, however, that the work in question displayed a most magnificent specimen of British typography; while the Index is allowed by all to be the best, most copious, and most correct extant.

Dr. Combe instantly replied to the *Critic*, in a pamphlet; which was answered by another: thus a paper war commenced, and was carried on for some time between two old friends and school-fellows. to the entire gratification of the enemies, and the sincere sorrow of the friends of both parties.

After this, Dr. Combe once more engaged himself in me-

dallie pursuits\*; and the fine collection of numismatic treasure at the British Museum, furnished ample opportunity to indulge his ruling passion. He had lived for some time in Bloomsbury-square, whence he removed to Vernon-place, where he died on March 18, 1817, in the 74th year of his age.

\* When the celebrated Mr. Howard, had endeared himself to all the world, by the generous sacrifice of both life and fortune for the benefit of mankind, the propriety of erecting a statue to him, during his life-time, was suggested by some spirited individuals. He, however, absolutely refused to accept of such a testimony of the public esteem. On this, a medal was thought of; and Dr. John Coakley Lettsom, who had distinguished himself by his zeal and liberality, on a subject which presented not a few difficulties, consulted Dr. Combe, as will be seen by the following letter, in reply: (*Vide Life and Correspondence of Dr. L. vol. i. p. 587.*)

“ TO DR. LETTSOM.

“ Bloomsbury-square, Oct. 22, 1787.

“ In regard to the Howardian Medal, I submit the following to your consideration:—A medal, unless appropriated to some person, or recording some fact, or series of facts, well defined, that is, clearly pointed out, becomes nugatory. Mr. Howard having refused to let either his head or name be placed on the medal, has rendered it very difficult to do him honour, or inform posterity, or even foreigners of the present age, the occasion and intention of striking it.

“ Under circumstances thus discouraging, I have attempted something. There seem to be two considerable objections against a Greek inscription, however apposite and elegant; one arising from the smallness of the number of people who are able to read it, and so far counteracting the design of a medal; the other from the artists not having Greek punches for the letters; and to have them made for one medal only would be very expensive.

“ As the medal is intended for foreigners as well as our own countrymen, I think an English inscription is not suitable. Latin is a language generally understood throughout Europe; more can be compressed by it in a less space, and custom seems to have made it, (if I may be allowed the expression,) the medallie language.

“ On the *obverse*, a view of a prison, which by irons, chains, &c. may be clearly defined; toward this a man walking, in the *exergue*:

‘ INFIRMUS ERAM, ET VISITASTIS ME,  
IN CARCERE ERAM, ET VENISTES AD ME. — *Matt. XXV. 36.*’

“ And in the contour:

‘ NEC MORBI NEC EQUORA TERRENT.’

“ Alluding to the dangers he underwent of infectious diseases, and in travelling, when in pursuit of his very humane plan.

“ On the reverse, the figure of BRITANNIA, the same as on a medal of Antoninus Pius, holding out a civic crown, over a standing figure; and underneath,

‘ BRITANNIA, L. M. MISERORUM CONSOLATORI, 1787.’

“ Still something I think is wanting for the information of posterity, which must be supplied by gentlemen having the following engraved round the edge after they had received the medal. IN HONOREM HOWARDII ARMIG.

Dr. Combe was a well known collector and purchaser of rare books. Like the late King of Wirtemberg, he possessed an immense number of the editions of the Bible, which were lately purchased by the trustees of the British Museum.

*List of the Works of the late Dr. Charles Combe.*

1. Index Nummorum omnium Imperatorum, Augustarum, et Cæsarum, à Julio Cæsare usque ad Postumum, qui tamen Româ et Coloniis quam in Græcia, Ægypto, et aliis locis ex ære magni moduli signabantur. Lond. 1773. 4to.

2. Nummorum veterum Populorum, et Urbium in Musæo Gulielmi Hunter, Descriptio, 4to. 1782.

3. Quint. Horatii Flacci opera cum variis lectionibus, notis variorum, et indice completissimo. Lond. 1792-3. 2 vols. 4to.

4. A Statement of Facts, relative to the behaviour of Dr. Samuel Parr, to the late Mr. H. Homer, and Dr. Combe, 8vo. 1793.

## No. XVII.

SIR ALEXANDER THOMPSON, KNT.

LATE CHIEF BARON OF THE COURT OF EXCHEQUER.

SIR Alexander Thompson was a native of the North of England, where he was born in 1745. Having been destined for the law, he was sent to the University; and at a proper period entered at one of the Inns of Court. After due study and application he was called to the bar, and entered into practice soon after, which encreased considerably, on account of his extraordinary application and attention. These qualities, superadded to his intimate knowledge of the laws of England, recommended him to the notice of a former Duke of Bedford (the grandfather of the present), and he conducted several suits for his Grace, with equal credit and ability. He was afterwards, if we are not misinformed, employed for many years as auditor of the various estates, both in town and country; and did not resign this situation until he was appointed, like his successor Mr. Baron Adam, to the bench.

When Sir James Eyre became Chief Baron of the Exchequer, on January 26, 1787, Mr. Thompson received the honour of knighthood, and was nominated a Baron in his place. In this situation he remained until 1793, when, on the resignation of Sir Archibald M'Donald, he became chief of that court in which he had before been a puisné, or junior judge.

In respect to legal knowledge his reputation was exceedingly high; and for his perspicuity as well as integrity, he has been always praised. He sat for many years in the Exchequer, and having outlived the Judges Gold, Heath, Rooke, Hotham, Eyre, Grose, Ashhurst, Lord Mansfield, &c. he stood alone,

like one of the sturdy oaks of the forest, and seemingly defied the attacks of time. He accordingly became the senior judge of the four courts in Westminster-hall, having sat on one bench near thirty years !

At length he retired in consequence of encreasing years and infirmities, and died at Bath in April 1817, in the seventy-second year of his age.

The late Chief Baron Thompson was the intimate friend and companion of the great Lord Thurlow, who, as Chancellor, had it in his power to be eminently serviceable to him during the early part of his legal career. His late preferment took place after that nobleman's demise. They were both good lawyers, and both fond of the pleasures of the table, being never averse to a cheerful and exhilarating glass of wine, after the business and fatigues of the day had been terminated.

## No. XVIII.

WILLIAM SAUNDERS, M.D. F.R.S. AND F.S.A.

THIS venerable practitioner was born in 1743, and might doubtless, have been considered the father of the College of Physicians of London, of which he was a fellow during many years. Having received a liberal education, and obtained considerable eminence by his town practice, he became, in due time Physician extraordinary to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and also senior Physician to Guy's Hospital. He at length retired from Russel-Square, and died at Enfield, June 4th, 1817, at the age of 74.

Dr. William Saunders was a distinguished member of most of the medical and scientific institutions in the metropolis, and contributed not a little to attract the attention of the public to the virtues of the red Peruvian bark.

*List of the Works of the late Dr. William Saunders.*

1. Treatise on Mercury, in Venereal Cases, 8vo. 1767.
2. An Answer to Geach and Alcock, on the Devonshire Colic, 8vo. 1768.
3. Observationes de Antimonis, 8vo. 1773.
4. Treatise on the Mephitic Acid, 8vo. 1779.
5. A Treatise on the Red Peruvian Bark, 8vo. 1782.
6. Dissertation on the Structure, Economy, and Diseases of the Liver, 8vo. 1793. (4 editions.)
7. Oratio Herveii, &c. 1797.
8. On the Chemical History of the medical powers of some of the most celebrated Mineral Waters, 1800. (2 editions.)
9. On the Hepatitis of India, 8vo. 1809.



## No. XIX.

## COUNT ALVISE P. ZENOBIO.

COUNT ZENOBIO, born at Venice about 1757, was the representative of an ancient and noble family. His late uncle, the Cavalier d'Emo, was for many years in the service of the Republic, and employed frequently with a squadron, to repress the incursions of the Barbary powers. But he was not merely an Admiral, but a kind of Lord High Admiral; for the arsenal, as well as navy, were entirely under his management; nay, he not only commanded, but actually fitted out the galleys; and the Doge could not wed the Adriatic by means of his *golden ring*, until the Bucentaur had been provided, and all the ceremony arranged, under the auspices of this nobleman. On his demise, he bequeathed the noble palace of Emo, and a large patrimony, to his nephew.

Alvise Zenobio, at an early period, came to England, and invested a considerable portion of his wealth, to the amount of at least 60,000*l.* sterling, in the English funds. It was the policy of the *State Inquisition*,—a horrible engine of oppression, that prevented the fate of Venice, from being regretted either by natives or foreigners—to lessen the fortunes of great and opulent families, under pretext of conferring the honour of expensive foreign embassies upon them. The subject of this memoir, saw and resolved to avoid the snare that was spread for him, and this young and wealthy patrician deemed no mode of prevention so efficacious as a journey to England.

The boasted constitution of this free country, even while a resident at, and subject of Venice, was always the object of his warmest admiration abroad; and while here, he endeavoured

to study its principles, and examine its foundations and superstructure. He is indeed, one of the few foreigners who ever occupied themselves about the preservation of British freedom, for he became a member of the society "for promoting constitutional information," and was formerly present at all public meetings for the attainment of any popular object.

As he frequently visited the Continent, the Count was subject to a variety of difficulties during the late war with France. In 1806, having repaired to Portugal, he immediately became an object of suspicion to the police of a government equally weak and arbitrary; his birth, his titles, his connexions in London and Venice, his wealth, the circumstance of his travelling during troublesome times, — all these, and perhaps the half of them were more than sufficient to awaken the Argus eyes of a bigotted and timorous administration. He was accordingly seized and imprisoned in a dungeon, which, in due time, opened its iron portal for the purpose of transferring the poor Count to the coast of Africa! At Tangiers, he claimed and obtained the protection of the late Mr. Magra, the English Consul, of whose kindness he was always accustomed to speak with gratitude. While there he was a free man; he was neither watched, nor imprisoned, nor plundered, and he constantly affirmed, "that he had been far better treated by the Infidels than the Christians."

He next repaired to France, but his long residence in England, had rendered him suspected there, and he was immediately sent out of that country. On this he travelled into Germany, and obtained an asylum at the court of that Duke of Brunswick, who was a general in the service of Prussia, and father of the Princess of Wales. With his Highness he resided until a short time before the fatal battle of Jena. Having been formerly a frequent visitor at Wimbledon, during this period, he kept up a close correspondence with the celebrated John Horne Tooke, and was enabled, in consequence of the favour shown to him at the court of Brunswick, to obtain and communicate intelligence of singular novelty and importance.

In 1807, he obtained leave from our government to return

once more to England ; but his political opinions now seemed to be greatly altered ; and the sequestration and spoliation of his paternal estates by the orders of Buonaparte, contributed not a little, perhaps, to this change. He accordingly wrote several violent pamphlets, in which he accused him of tyranny, avarice, and injustice, and actually contrived to attack the then Emperor of France, in pretty tolerable English.

From this period, he declined visiting the Ex-M. P. for Old Sarum, of whom, however, he always spoke with high respect ; but he assigned very honourable, as well as very powerful reasons for his conduct ; as he was influenced solely by the strange idea, that his attentions to this singular man, might not only hurt him with the English government, but also with the allies.

Count Zenobio, appeared to be about sixty years of age ; he was good natured, inoffensive in his manners, and always willing to do a kindness, when in his power. He died at his apartments, in Duke Street, Westminster, December 1817.

## No. XX.

RIGHT HON. SIR JOHN M'MAHON, BART.

A MEMBER OF HIS MAJESTY'S MOST HONOURABLE THE PRIVY COUNCIL ; LATE PRIVATE SECRETARY, SECRETARY-EXTRAORDINARY, AND KEEPER OF THE PRIVY PURSE, TO HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE REGENT, &c. &c. &c.

THE fate and fortune of the subject of this memoir has been not a little extraordinary ; for without the possession of any shining talents, or extraordinary accomplishments, either of mind or body ; and although unaided by birth, alliances, and family connexions, he attained not only a high rank in the state, but died possessed of no inconsiderable share of wealth, favour, and honours.

Sir John M'Mahon was a native of Ireland ; being the eldest son of Mr. John M'Mahon \*, who was originally bred in the family of Robert Clements, Esq. of the county of Leitrim, a gentleman of considerable fortune and influence in the sister island. His mother resided for many years also, in the same house. Thus coming into the world, while perhaps both his parents were in great obscurity, who could have contemplated the future fate of this boy ? Who could have dreamed of his future rise ? Who would have dared to prognosticate that he himself should have lived to confer places, and titles, and honours ? That he, for many years, should have possessed the entire confidence of his Prince ; and ranked with privy counsellors, nobles, and grandees ? But in a free country, birth is a secondary consideration.

\* Mr. M'Mahon, Senior, afterwards married Miss Mary Stackpole, the daughter of a respectable merchant of Cork, by whom he had two children, now baronets ; while his eldest son was both a baronet and a privy counsellor. The father died in 1789, at which period he was Patentee Comptroller of the port of Limerick.

Born about the year 1754, young M'Mahon received such an education as seemed befitting for his station in life. At a riper age, he repaired to Dublin, and we have been informed by one of his cotemporaries, that he obtained, perhaps through the interest of the family of Clements (who were afterwards ennobled, and became in succession, Barons, Viscounts, and Earls of Leitrim), some little post under government. We are ignorant of the cause, but certain it is, that Mr. M'Mahon emigrated soon after to America, and applied to a Scotch gentleman, who was then raising a provincial regiment, afterwards called the "Pennsylvania Rangers," for an ensigncy in that *corps*. Lieutenant-Colonel James Chalmers (the gentleman alluded to) declined his services, but he, at the same time, pointed out "his countryman Lord Rawdon (since Earl of Moira and Marquis of Hastings) as a more proper person to apply to." This officer lived long enough to see him a great man, and was afterwards accustomed to tell this story at his table in Chelsea, always adding, "my refusal and my hint made this young fellow's fortune."

Having solicited the nobleman mentioned above, Mr. M'Mahon soon after obtained a stand of colours, and in the course of a few months became a great favourite. He was present at all the actions and skirmishes in which Lord Rawdon happened to be engaged in the Trans-Atlantic continent, most of which were fortunate and even successful. At one period, indeed, they penetrated into the southern states, and high hopes were entertained that some great changes might be effected by their gallant achievements. But they did not succeed in any degree equal to their wishes, and, perhaps, to their merits; yet it must be allowed, that their operations were far less disastrous than the two armies under Burgoyne and Cornwallis, both of whom were reduced to the necessity of piling their arms.

Mr. M'Mahon returned to England, and by means of his gallant, kind, and courteous patron, now become Earl of Moira, in due time, attained the rank of a field officer. He afterwards became a lieutenant-colonel in the army, by *brevet*, and if we are not greatly mistaken, being then married, was

permitted to sell his commission, at the same time, by way of especial favour, retaining his rank in the army. But the good and amiable Earl did not stop here, for he projected something far better for the officer who had been so many years under his protection. Colonel M'Mahon (for so he was now called) seemed to be formed by nature for a courtier. He made a most graceful and elegant bow, which he regulated in due proportion to the rank and influence of those he addressed. His voice was exactly modulated so as to soothe and to please ; for it exhibited those *under-tones* which never disturb the nerves of the great and powerful. He also wrote a letter in the politest style possible, and with all due observance of *etiquette* : nor was he unacquainted with the arts of rendering himself useful on every possible occasion.

With the full possession of these qualities, he was introduced to his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, at a period when the royal residence of Carlton House, was in a state of eclipse. But he remained long enough in the adjoining mansion in Pall-Mall, to behold all its former splendour revived and augmented ; and the Regency conferred on, and enjoyed in full plenitude, by his new protector. One of the first acts of the Prince, after being placed at the head of the executive government, was to reward his fidelity, and from being private secretary, the Colonel accordingly became keeper of the Privy Purse, a Privy-Counsellor, and Secretary-Extraordinary.

As His Royal Highness, in his capacity of Duke of Cornwall, had himself been for several years in opposition, Sir John had a delicate task to perform, when he beheld his patron dismiss the whigs, and take other men to his bosom, and his councils. The Earl of Moira and he, were of course no longer of the same party ; and all the Right Honourable Secretary's *quondam* friends, seemed to have bid an eternal adieu to Carlton House. A feeble and inefficacious attempt, was, however, at one period made, to nominate the above-mentioned nobleman, Premier : but, as it proved difficult, if not impossible, to arrange the subordinate characters, this ap-

pointment never took place. His lordship, notwithstanding this, was offered the Viceroyship of Ireland; but Lord Moira refused to return to his native country, unless he could carry the olive-branch thither to the Catholics. At length, he repaired to India, as Governor-General, with a great salary, and an immense patronage; and has been lately advanced in the peerage, to a marquise. How far Sir John M'Mahon, may have contributed to the latter event, we know not; but it is most likely, as he has never been accused of ingratitude, that he did all in his power to return the numerous good offices conferred on himself, while a poor, unknown, and unfriended youth. For the patriots, with whom he had leagued in former times, he always had at command, a handsome bow, an undeviating smile, and an uniform compliment. We have known him, not only disclaim any pretensions to influence himself, but jocularly to assert that "his Royal Highness possessed little or none!" Another courtier, of still older date, carried this much further; for reversing the noble saying of a King of France, "that he forgot all the injuries done him as Duke of Orleans;" this bold statesman observed on one occasion, to a most meritorious, and much injured officer: "that George II., was not bound by the promises of the Prince of Wales!" We are sure that the Monarch himself would most heartily have disdained so base and so mean a sentiment, and we are conscious, that the subject of this memoir, always endeavoured to reflect honour on the Regent.

At length, after the lapse of many years, Sir John M'Mahon, began to feel the pressure of disease, if not of old age; and the demise of his wife, a few months before, was the forerunner of his own fate. He had resigned his station about the person of the Prince, some time previously to his demise, but he appears still to have retained no inconsiderable share of influence, which he exercised in behalf of several respectable branches of his family. In 1814, he procured for his half-brother, now the Right Honourable Sir William M'Mahon, a baronetcy, and also provided for him handsomely, by means

of a negotiation with the late Right Honourable John P. Curran, who was prevailed upon to resign the Mastership of the Rolls, in consequence of obtaining a very large pension. Another half-brother, who had acquired considerable rank in the army, was honoured with the high and confidential station of Aide-de-Camp, to the Prince of Wales, with a reversion of his own title.

Having retired to Bath, for the benefit of the air and waters, Sir John M'Mahon died there, September 12, 1817, leaving behind him a large fortune, which could never possibly have been obtained from the income of his several places, all of which did not exceed the sum of 3000*l.*, or 4000*l.* per annum. The assertion, however, is ridiculous, that at the time of his demise, he had, "a floating balance at his banker's, of 70,000*l.*," for he was too well acquainted with the value of money, to lose the interest of so large a sum. A little before his last illness, he built a beautiful little villa, in Kent, on an estate which he had purchased, within ten or twelve miles of town. In his person, he was small, and devoid of beauty. His face too, was seamed and scarred with the small-pox; but as his conversation was pleasant, and he possessed all the graces, any impression arising from a transient view, soon wore off, and was obliterated. By his will, dated April 26, 1816; the Right Honourable Sir William M'Mahon, Master of the Rolls in Ireland, is left his sole executor, and residuary legatee, with a bequest of 20,000*l.* The personal property, is sworn to be under 90,000*l.* ten thousand pounds are given to Colonel (now) Sir Thomas M'Mahon, Bart.; to Susan-Elizabeth Wylde, otherwise Mitford, 5000*l.*; "to Thomas Marrable, Esq., a dear and esteemed friend, 2000*l.*, and with my last prayers," adds he, "for the glory and happiness of the best-hearted man in the world, the Prince Regent, I bequeath him, the said Thomas Marrable, an invaluable servant."

"To Sir Walter Farquhar, Bart., the preserver of my life for many years, 600 guineas;" and to another medical attendant, "500*l.*"



It might be doing injustice to the memory of Sir John, were we to withhold an eulogium, evidently penned by the hand of friendship, and perhaps of gratitude.

“ He was a gentleman, of most kind and courteous manners, steady and constant in his friendship, zeal, fidelity, and affection. With the best qualities of the heart, we may add, that he had a very cultivated understanding, and a sound judgment.

“ The clearest head, with the sincerest heart !

“ He was among the best letter-writers of his time, and in the performance of that duty, always did honour to the sentiments of his Royal master ; and rendered even a refusal of a request, palatable to the parties.”

Sir John M'Mahon was in the sixty-third or sixty-fourth year of his age, at the time of his decease.

## No. XXI.

BENJAMIN TRAVERS, Esq.

THIS gentleman, born in 1752, was destined for trade from his early youth. Accordingly, after attaining some previous knowledge in a counting-house, he soon became a very distinguished merchant, in the city of London; but it appears that the bent and direction of his mind and pursuits were unfitted both to his character and condition. He possessed a bold, speculative, and ardent mind; he was fond of books as well as of philosophy; and he was utterly incapable of following that cold, calculating, and unvarying career, by means of which the sons of commerce almost invariably attain wealth and consequence. In this predicament there is but little wonder if he should fail in obtaining the object of his wishes; although eminent for his virtues and his patriotism, as well as for his talents and his eloquence.

“ His reverse of fortune,” we are told, “ he bore with firmness and fortitude, though at the same time touched with deep concern for those who had unhappily suffered with him. His character, indeed, had in it no small portion of sympathetic and benevolent feeling, which rendered him a pattern of conjugal and parental affection; and which, united with his natural ardour and enthusiasm, formed him to be the sincere and zealous friend. Of the justice of this remark there are living witnesses, who attribute the origin of their worldly prosperity and comfort to his unsolicited and disinterested exertions.

“ Among the subjects which engaged his inquisitive mind, religion always occupied a primary place,—and on this subject he strictly and truly thought for himself; and his reflections led him to entertain the most reverential, and at the same

time the most encouraging views of the Divine Being, which were highly consolatory to him in the time of affliction, and on which he reposed with a cheerful and steady confidence both for this life and for the next.

“ Few characters have been more strongly marked than those of this excellent man. Ardour of mind, combined with warmth of feeling, independence of thought which disdained to yield to authority, decision in forming resolutions, followed by equal promptitude in action, were his most prominent and conspicuous features; and these must have forced themselves on the observation of all who knew him.

“ But he possessed other qualities which, as is the case with most men, could be remarked only by his intimates and friends. Among these, one of the most striking was an insatiable thirst after knowledge, which the labours and anxieties of a busy commercial life were unable to extinguish, and which he indulged, for a few years before his decease, with an eagerness and interest, by no means common at the period of life to which he had then advanced.”

Mr. Travers died at Tunbridge Wells, in the spring of 1817, aged sixty-five.

## No. XXII.

JOHN PADDEY, Esq.

**T**HIS gentleman deserves mention on account of his lineage. He was born in 1738, and died at Kensington, near London. His mother, Lady Anne Paddey, was daughter of Charles Duke of Cleves and Southampton, a son of Charles II. The deceased was, accordingly, the last surviving descendant in the third degree from King Charles, by the Lady Barbara Villiers, daughter of Viscount Grandison, who was slain fighting for King Charles I., against the Parliamentary army, in 1642.

It ought to be remembered also, that his grandfather was brother to the celebrated George Villiers Duke of Buckingham, who was made cupbearer to James I. on account of his fine person. That sovereign, perceiving his education had been neglected, actually condescended to become his schoolmaster; he then appointed him a gentleman of His Majesty's bed-chamber and Knight of the Garter, a dukedom next awaited his ambition; and he had the disposal of all places both in church and state.

In the next reign, he became also the favourite of Charles I. and thus enjoyed the rare good fortune of enjoying the unlimited confidence of two succeeding monarchs. He was stabbed by Felton, August 23, 1628, at the time when he was about to embark at Portsmouth, in a second expedition against France.

Mr. Paddey lived in great obscurity, at Kensington in the county of Middlesex, where he died in 1817.

## No. XXIII.

RIGHT HON. FRANCIS NORTH, EARL OF GUILFORD.

LORD NORTH AND GUILFORD, HEREDITARY HIGH STEWARD OF THE  
BOROUGH OF BANBURY, PATENT COMPTROLLER AND SEARCHER OF  
THE CUSTOMS, AND LL. D.

ANIMO ET FIDE. — *Mot.*

**R**oger North, who flourished during the reign of Edward IV., appears to be the common ancestor of this family. From him descended Edward, created a peer by Mary, on Feb. 17, 1554. But for wealth, and consequence, we are to look to Sir Francis North, Knight, a very able lawyer, who became first Solicitor, then Attorney-General, next Chief Justice of the King's Bench, and was finally nominated Keeper of the Great Seal, during the reigns of Charles II. and James II. with the title of Lord Guilford. He was educated at St. John's College, Cambridge; and while presiding in the Court of Chancery, is said to have been rather too favourable to the interests of the crown, for a great, upright, and independent judge. Happily for his memory, two events occurred, to shelter his reputation, and enhance his merits; for he was succeeded on the bench, by the infamous Jefferies, while his life was written, and his conduct displayed in the most favourable colours, by a near relation.

This nobleman, who was the author of a philosophical Essay on Music; is known to have exhibited considerable skill on the Bass-Viol, an instrument now become obsolete. According to tradition, he employed a musician to lull him to sleep; and if we are to believe his enemies, he was accustomed "to ride on a Rhinoceros." This accusation is seriously termed

by his biographer, the Honourable Roger North, a "gross calumny!" Sir Dudley North, brother to the Lord Keeper, was bound apprentice to a Turkey merchant, and is said, while residing at Constantinople, to have acted the part of a *Cadi* or Judge, having tried upwards of five hundred causes, there, in consequence of his knowledge both of the Turkish language, and the Mahomedan law.

Francis, Lord North, was created Earl of Guilford, by George II. on April 8, 1752; his son, Francis Lord North, K. G. acted for many years as Prime Minister, until obliged to retire, in consequence of the unpopularity attached to the war with America, of which he was accustomed to declare to his confidential friends, "that he was neither the author nor adviser." He, however, returned to power in conjunction with Mr. Fox, and they with their adherents were known by the appellation of "the coalition administration." He succeeded to the family honours and estates on the demise of his father: and although assailed at one period with all the eloquence of a Burke, and a Fox, his character was vindicated by their subsequent alliance; and he is represented by his friend Mr. Gibbon, "as a statesman of spotless integrity, and a consummate master of debate, who could wield with equal dexterity, the arms of reason, and of ridicule." On his return from Switzerland, this celebrated historian observes, "the house in London, which I frequented with most pleasure, and assiduity, was that of Lord North. After the loss of power and of sight, he was still happy in himself and his friends, and my tribute of gratitude, and esteem, could no longer be suspected of any interested motive."

Francis North Earl of Guilford, of whom we are now to treat, was the second son of this nobleman. On his demise his lordship was succeeded by his eldest son, George Augustus; but the latter having died in 1802, without leaving any issue, by Miss Coutts, his Countess, the family honours and estates, of course devolved on him.

He was born, Dec. 25, 1761, and after receiving a public education, at a proper age, obtained a commission in the

army. He was soon promoted to a Majority in the 84th regiment of foot, and in due time obtained the rank of a Lieutenant-Colonel by brevet. He was also Captain of Deal Castle, a post conferred by his father in early life, in virtue of his office of Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports.

When a young man, he was particularly known by the appellation of "honest Frank North," among all his acquaintances. Unlike his father, however, he was no orator, and we believe never spoke in the House of Lords. He attended occasionally, however, and voted in favour of the Roman Catholic Bill, both in 1807, and in 1808. This nobleman, greatly addicted himself to theatrical performances; and was the author of a dramatic work of some merit: the "Kentish Barons," a play published in 1791. He always evinced a great esteem for, and attachment to Mr. Kemble, and when his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, paid him a visit at Wroxton Abbey, in Oxfordshire; the Earl *got up* the celebrated tragedy of Richard III., in which the actor just named, personified the character of that monarch, with his usual skill and success.

On July 19, 1810, his lordship married Maria, sixth daughter of the late Thomas Bycott, of Rudge-Hall, in the county of Salop, Esq., by whom he had no issue.

He repaired sometime since to the Continent, with his Countess, and died at Pisa, in January 1817. The Earl was succeeded in both titles and estates, by his sole surviving brother, Frederick, now Earl of Guilford. The following character has been transmitted by a friend:

"His lordship was the second son of Frederick Earl of Guilford, and inherited from his father, the invariable benevolence that formed the foundation of all his character; a benevolence, not confined to the more ostensible exertions of generosity and charity, but extending itself through all the unpretending kindnesses of social life. It was never overlooked in the exultation of wit and spirits; and it will be well remembered by his acquaintance, that he never could hear

any person indiscreetly and hastily condemned, without immediately employing himself to search for some possible excuse.

“ His brilliant wit, and his most exhilarating cheerfulness, are known to all who ever heard his name; but those who had occasion to apply to him at more serious moments, had equal reason to admire the solidity and acuteness of his judgment. His principles on every subject were honourable and liberal, and his manners were the immediate reflection of his manly, candid, and affectionate mind. At every period of his life, he preserved the greatest reverence for the attributes of the Christian religion, and the firmest belief in its doctrines; and he expired while invoking the blessing of the Almighty upon those around him, still anxious, even at that awful moment, to impart to the objects of his warmest love, a share in the happiness that was opening to his enjoyment.”

Another friend observed as follows, of the late Earl, during his life:

“ He possessed the hereditary talents and love of literature of his family; and what is better, that hereditary good-nature, benevolence, freedom from guile, openness and liberality, which have, for ages given a peculiar tincture to his ancestors. The house of North, frank, unassuming, and kind, have, for centuries, set a pattern of what in truth they are, *true nobility*. Their case is well calculated to put the insolence of upstarts to shame.”



## No. XXIV.

THE MOST NOBLE LOUISA CATHARINE,  
DOWAGER MARCHIONESS OF SLIGO.

LADY Louisa Catharine Howe, second surviving daughter and coheir of the gallant and celebrated Admiral Richard Earl Howe, by Mary, daughter of Chiverton Hartopp of Wellby in the county of Notts, Esq., was born December 9, 1767. On the 21st of May, 1787, her ladyship was married to the most noble John Denis Browne, first Marquis of Sligo, Earl of Altamont, Viscount Westport, a governor of the county of Mayo, and Knight of the most illustrious order of St. Patrick. By this nobleman, the marchioness had issue, Howe Peter Earl of Altamont, now second Marquis of Sligo, who was born May 18, 1788.

Sometime after the demise of her late consort, and about five years since, a most unexpected and romantic marriage took place between Sir William Scott, the elder brother of the Lord Chancellor, and chief judge of the Court of Admiralty, and this titled dowager. During the latter part of the last summer, Sir William resolved on taking a journey to Switzerland; and he accordingly set out on his route thither. In October, the Marchioness repaired to Holland, with a view of greeting him on his return, and also of accompanying him to England. But it was not their fate to meet any more: for her ladyship was suddenly taken ill at Amsterdam, and died there in November 1817, after being confined for only a few days. Luckily on this, as on former occasions, she was attended by her niece, Miss Curzon, who administered all possible consolation and assistance on this trying occasion.

Her ladyship, who is said to have possessed a fine taste for literature, and to have been an accomplished woman, was a younger sister of the Baroness Howe, and in the remainder of the Barony.

Previously to her demise, the Marchioness had made many very valuable purchases for the splendid mansion of her son in Ireland, which have just reached the place of their destination.

## No. XXV.

THE RIGHT HON. PATRICK EARL OF ROSCOMMON,

BARON OF KILKENNY-WEST, &amp;c. &amp;c. &amp;c.

THE Dillons have been long settled in Ireland and were at one period considered a very warlike family, and at another, distinguished for talents of a very different kind. Henry their ancestor, accompanied King John into the sister island; and one of his descendants was created a baron in 1619, and obtained an earldom in 1622.

Wentworth Dillon, Earl of Roscommon, born in Ireland, in 1638, and educated at his uncle's the Earl of Stafford, in Yorkshire, was afterwards sent to Caen, in Normandy, where he had the celebrated Bochart for his tutor. He became Master of the Horse to the Duchess of York, and having addicted himself to the Muses, began to be considered one of the best poets of his day.

Robert, ninth Earl of Roscommon, rose to be a Marshal of France; in the service of which country he possessed a *proprietary* regiment, that bore his own name.

Patrick Dillon, the eleventh Earl of Roscommon, was born March 15, 1769. He succeeded his father, John, the former Earl, and on July 10, 1797, married Barbara, youngest daughter of Ignatius Begg, of Belrea, in the county of Roscommon. As his sole surviving issue is Maria, born in 1798, his titles most probably may become a subject of dispute. They are now claimed by his cousin, Michael James Dillon, Esq, a minor, son of Captain Michael Dillon, late of the county of Dublin Militia, who was killed at the battle of Ross, during the Rebellion.

Lord Roscommon died at his seat called Barbara-villa, in the county of Roscommon, Jan. 1, 1817.

## No. XXVI.

## SAMUEL RUDGE, Esq.

MR. Rudge the eighth son of the Rev. Benjamin Rudge, Rector of Thornhaugh, in the county of Northampton, was born in 1727. His uncle John was M. P. for the borough of Evesham, for many years; and he himself was originally bred to the profession of the law, having chambers in the Middle Temple, which he quitted so early as the year 1763. He afterwards resided at Elstree, in the county of Herts, where he lived during thirty-eight years, with his elder brother.

In consequence of his possessions in that county, he served the office of High Sheriff of Northampton, in 1792, and afterwards removed to Watlington, in Oxfordshire.

Having been a great sufferer from calculous complaints, he was accustomed, during 40 years of his life to recur constantly to a decoction, for the formation of which the following *recipe*, by himself, conveys the most minute and particular directions:

“ Boil 36 raw coffee berries for one hour in a quart of soft spring or river water: then bruise the berries, and boil them again another hour in the same water; add thereto a quarter of a tea-spoonful of the dulcified spirit of nitre, and take daily a half-pint cup of it at any hour that is convenient: its efficacy will be experienced after taking it for two months.”

By means of this potent specific he was released from a quantity of gravel, according to his own calculation, equal to a half-pint measure, during the period he had recourse to its aid.

Mr. Rudge employed his knowledge of the law, not for the annoyance or destruction, but the benefit of his neighbours. He was a very charitable man, and had addicted himself,

during more than half a century, to the study of botany. He commenced his labours in natural history, about the year 1750, with Ray and Tournefort, and continued them uninterruptedly until unable to read.

He at length expired in the 90th year of his age; having died at his house at Watlington, in February 1817, after a short illness of ten days.

## No. XXVII.

ARTHUR CHARLES MURPHY, Esq.

THIS gentleman was a native of Ireland, but at an early period of life seems to have adopted England for his residence. Having come hither, like many of his countrymen, with the intention of studying the law as a profession, he entered himself as a student in the registry of the Honourable Society of the Middle Temple; but although he kept the regular number of terms, yet he never deemed it an object worthy of the expense to be called to the bar.

Having at length married, and beholding before him the prospect of a large and encreasing family, Mr. Murphy became a candidate for ministerial favour; and at last obtained an appointment as Provost-Marshal of Senegambia, on the coast of Africa. This happened at a period when the late Governor Wall, so justly executed afterwards, for an atrocious act of cruelty, combined with tyranny, presided over that remote and unhealthy settlement.

On the restoration of Senegambia to the French, his place was of course abolished, and the subject of this short biographical sketch applied for indemnification: but as he had chosen to act by deputy, his claims were not at all attended to. At length, however, he was appointed to the place of receiver of certain taxes, in the north of England; and the great fatigue incident to this office, which was not accompanied with adequate compensation, is said to have shortened his life, having died in Lambeth-road, May 4, 1817. His daughter, who was educated by the queen, and afterwards kept a respectable seminary at Doncaster, still survives; two of his sons were in the navy and marines; while a third, now a major in the army,

served with great credit during the late peninsular campaigns, under the Duke of Wellington.

Their father, the late Mr. Murphy, from his earliest years, seems to have cultivated the muses. He acted, indeed, as a kind of Poet-Laureat to her Majesty, and although his annual Birth-day Ode, neither produced for him a salary, or even a butt of sack ; yet he appears to have obtained from the Court, a provision for most of his children.

## No. XXVIII.

## MR. JOSEPH GEORGE HOLMAN.

**T**HIS dramatic writer, and comedian, was born in London, in 1764, and is said to have been descended from Sir John Holman, of Warkeworth Castle, near Banbury, Bart., whose title is long since extinct. His father appears to have served originally in the army, but towards the latter end of his life, he undertook the more profitable duties of some parochial office, which enabled him to maintain his family, and perhaps, leave something for the education of his son.

This parent having died while the boy was still a child, his affectionate mother placed him under the tuition of the late Dr. Barrow, then master of an academy of some celebrity in Soho Square. The annual theatrical exhibitions of this gentleman, during the Christmas holidays, for the purpose of aiding his pupils in declamation, gave a tone, object, and colour to his future destiny in life.

Young Holman, towards the conclusion of the year 1778, happened to be selected for the character of Hamlet, and was greatly applauded, rather as some of his contemporaries assert, for the force of his utterance, than any great dexterity in the histrionic art.

His friends destined him for the church, and he was entered at Queen's College Oxford; but he was induced, however, in 1784, to embrace the stage as a profession, and he accordingly first appeared at Covent Garden Theatre as Romeo, in which character, according to the critics, he "ranted," rather than performed. Improvement, however, in this as in all other cases, followed practice, and Holman began to attain a certain degree of familiarity at least, as



well as ease, and self-possession, which a novice can never aspire to. He was for a time a successful, although never a first-rate performer in England.

Having soon quitted the London stage, in consequence of his merits being under-rated, and his salary therefore inadequate to his claims; he repaired first to Dublin, and afterwards to Edinburgh, in the latter of which cities, he acquired great popularity. After a short interval, Mr. Holman returned to Covent Garden; then appeared on the boards of the Hay-Market; afterwards repaired once more to Ireland, and purchased a share in the theatre of that capital, which was disposed of to great loss, in consequence of the unpromising aspect of the times. In 1798, he married the youngest daughter of the Honourable and Reverend Frederick Hamilton, with whom he obtained some fortune; but this lady died in 1810. Meanwhile this disciple of Roscius, had determined to remove to the Trans-Atlantic continent. This speculation at first proved productive both of fame and money; for he performed there, with an unusual degree of applause. Finding this a lucky adventure, he returned to London, in 1812, for the express purpose of engaging performers for his new Theatre at Charles-town, in South Carolina, a gay, but unhealthy provincial capital. During his short stay in England, he appeared once more at the summer theatre of the Hay-Market, in the character of Jaffier, which he played to his own daughter's Belvidera; for he had actually brought up Miss Holman to the stage!

On his return, this gentleman experienced the fate of most, if not all managers; for he was thwarted behind the scenes; parties were made against him, among the inhabitants; a general disobedience ensued, and an appeal was made to the public, in opposition to his authority, which like every other ruler, he of course deemed sacred, and inviolable. To add to the miseries of a revolutionary theatrical atmosphere, he actually caught an endemic autumnal contagion, with which the scene of his short-lived dramatic monarchy is annually visited! Stricken with the unrelenting hand of death, he endeavoured

to avoid his fate by flight to the healthier region of the state of New York; but he, and nearly all his Thespian company, consisting of Mr. Saunders, Miss Moore, &c. &c. fell a prey to this unrelenting disorder. He is said to have married Miss Latimer, a vocal performer, but two days before his death; and she appears in a short time to have experienced a similar fate!

Mr. Holman died at Rockaway, a small sea-port and bathing place in Long Island, on the 24th of August, 1817, in the 53d year of his age. As an actor, he never occupied the first place in England, as he afterwards did in America; but his Lord Townly, was deemed a good performance, and, indeed, it enabled him to become the rival of Kemble, who played all his master-pieces against this one conspicuous character, during a whole season, and that too, as has been said, with equivocal success! He was esteemed both as a private gentleman and a scholar; and also particularly respected on account of his urbanity and gentle manners.

*List of the Dramatic Works of the late Mr. Holman.*

1. The Comic Opera of "Abroad and at Home," 8vo. 1796.
2. The Red Cross Knights, a Play, 8vo. 1799.
3. Votary of Wealth, a Comedy, 8vo. 1799.
4. What a Blunder! a Comic Opera, 1800.
5. Love gives the Alarm, a Comedy, 1804.
6. The Gazette Extraordinary, a Comic Opera, 8vo. 1814.

## No. XXIX.

MR. JAMES GRANT RAYMOND,

LATE MANAGER OF DRURY-LANE THEATRE.

THE object of this short memoir rose from a humble station partly by his theatrical talents, and partly by a certain knowledge of the world, which, in due time, developed to his searching eye, all the springs and movements that actuate the human heart.

James Grant was born on the 29th March, 1769, in that small and comparatively fertile valley, which is watered by an impetuous river, or rather torrent, the stream of which, in point of swiftness, fully answers the account of the Rhone, in the bold and animated description of his wars in Gaul, left us by Julius Cæsar. Hence it has been termed "Strath-Spey," or the *Glen of the Spey*. This has been time immemorial the residence of an ancient and powerful clan; the brother of the chief of which resides at this present moment at Castle-Grant, so denominated from his own name and that of his followers.

All the Grants derive their origin from Ludowick Grant, a celebrated Celtic warrior, whose descendants, after being created baronets, have, in the person of the present head of the family, become Earls of Seaford. Being consequently related to each other, James, like the rest, doubtless, traced his origin to this invader, who by means of his *clay-more*, or broad sword, either acquired or defended his ample possessions. His father was a hardy veteran, who fought and fell in America.

At a proper age, young Grant was removed to the school of Inverkeithing, a parish in the shire of Banff, on the banks of the river Deveron; and as his parents were not rich, and his

prospects but limited, he resided for some time along with a blind gentleman, who possessed an estate in that neighbourhood, and was cousin to the Earl of Fife. He is said, however, to have spent a session at King's College, Old Aberdeen, with a view of qualifying him for the church, at the earnest entreaty of his widowed mother; but he seems to have soon abandoned the pursuit of ecclesiastical stipends and employments; for in Scotland, the office of clergyman, although respectable, is not seductive. There the "ministers of the gospel," neither hunt, nor shoot, nor fish; they preach, however, twice a week, pray daily, and regularly instruct their flock in all Christian duties.

From this period, Mr. Grant appears to have led a rambling life during many years. Having repaired to England about the age of nineteen or twenty, after a short residence here, he afterwards visited Ireland, but in what capacity is not well known. It appears to have been there, however, that he imbibed a taste for the stage, in consequence of hearing the late Edmond Tighe, Esq., a distinguished scholar and man of fortune in the sister island, recite the tragedy of *Oroonoko*. This gentleman, the friend and schoolfellow of David Garrick, is said to have possessed much of his manner, genius, and animation. He declaimed, therefore, with equal spirit and effect. From this moment, Mr. Grant, who is said to have been some time at sea as a midshipman, resolved finally to make the stage his profession. He accordingly offered himself as a candidate for fame and employment to the manager of the Dublin theatre, and having exhibited such a specimen of his talents as appeared to countenance his pretensions, he made his appearance as the "sable Indian Prince," a character which had first inspired him with a taste, or rather a *passion*, for the histrionic art. The representation was such as on one hand to excite applause, and on the other, to give all manner of encouragement for him to pursue his career: his youth and ardour, on this occasion, contributed not a little to win the hearts of an Irish audience. Either at this time, or soon after, he assumed the cognomen of *Raymond*, (a very romantic name)

either to conceal his own, or to confer a new interest on his novel speculation. Under the management of Mr. Daly, he acted the parts of Jaffier and Castalio, with considerable success.

Returning to London, where rumour, if not fame, had preceded him, he there sought and obtained a permanent dramatic engagement. His progress henceforth was both auspicious and fortunate. Having married Miss Carmichael, a lady of Dublin, by whom he had two sons and four daughters, he now perceived the absolute necessity of labour, punctuality, and attention. In these particulars he was not wanting. Mr. Grant had personified several of the most eminent and conspicuous characters of the English drama in Dublin; and he now exhibited them with more chasteness and many improvements before a London audience. It is not unknown to his family and friends, that a popular sheriff of London was so much charmed with his first night's performance \* in the English capital, that he presented him with a handsome sum of money at the conclusion of the third act.

Anterior to this period, however, he had trod the boards of two provincial theatres, Lancaster and Manchester, and it was at the former place where he was engaged by Mr. Grubb, then chief agent for Old Drury. He happened accidentally to see him in one of his favourite characters, and employed the good offices of Munden to bring about a negociation. Accordingly, after making his debut in *Osmond*, he undertook a series of characters, such as *Penruddock*, *Rolla*, &c., which were well suited to his *cast* of parts or mode of acting.

On the conflagration of Drury-Lane Theatre, Mr. Raymond might have fairly exclaimed, "*Othello's* occupation's gone!" but this melancholy and distressful circumstance proved on the whole fortunate. At first, indeed, his ruin and that of his family seemed inevitable, and he actually took a house in Pall Mall, for the express purpose of opening a bookseller's shop. Mrs. Coutts, then Miss Melon, by way of encouragement,

\* As *Osmond*, in "*the Castle Spectre*," in 1799.

ordered, received, and paid for a very handsome Bible, by anticipation.

But another fate awaited him, and he was now called upon to display a new talent; one, indeed, very difficult in every point of view.

We have already noticed the annihilation of a splendid but ill-fated dramatic edifice, in the space of "one dread night." "This event," says a friend, "seemed to doom a deserving class of men and their dependants to ruin; but it ought not to be forgotten that the energies of the man, at that moment, co-operating with the experience of the actor, in the person of James Grant Raymond, were principally instrumental in keeping together a respectable corps of performers, and preserving the very name of the Drury-Lane Company. The activity, zeal, and perseverance — the undaunted courage — the quick perception — the inventive genius — the economical policy — the conciliating manners, and the firm resolve, were then all needful; and it is no exaggeration to say, that the mind of Mr. Raymond supplied them all. If, as we believe, the dauntless perseverance and commanding influence of a Whitbread alone could have raised the present splendid edifice from the ashes of the former, so are we convinced that none but a Raymond could, during the period of its erection, have preserved the *spirit* of Old Drury in the humble tabernacle of the Lyceum.

"This service alone is a prouder epitaph than can be written on the tomb of most men. But there is another point in the character of Mr. Raymond, distinct from any quality of the actor or the manager, and which it would be unjust to neglect or omit. As a man of letters, he did not certainly rank in the first class; but, that he was a respectable author, and an excellent critic, his *Life of the unfortunate Dermody* is a striking proof; whilst the tale itself of that indiscreet and erring child of genius is a testimony to the generosity and the benevolence of the heart of Raymond, which surpasses in real glory all the other rays of his character. Besides this, Mr. Raymond edited two volumes of his poems. He has also left two

tragedies; one on the subject of the unfortunate Louis XVI. and the other called the "Indian Captive." The latter was performed in Ireland, but neither have yet been published. We learn, however, with much satisfaction, that it is the intention of his family to sanction and assist the publication of an authentic Biography of this much respected and valuable man, and that these dramas will form part of the work.

"At the commencement of the season, Mr. Raymond had just entered for the second time upon the arduous and inviolable duties of manager of Drury-Lane Theatre; he was also a member of the sub-committee of management; and the most cheering prospect of success was just opening to the concern, when the hand of Death suddenly snatched away the man, of whom the performers and the proprietors may truly say, 'Take him for all in all, we shall not look upon his like again!'

"Mr. Raymond, in 1792, married Frances the daughter of Mr. Carmichael, of Dublin, who survives him, together with two sons and four daughters."

He died after a very short illness, for he was seized with apoplexy, early in the morning, at his house in Chester Street, Grosvenor Place, Hyde-Park Corner, and was a corpse at five in the afternoon. Mr. Grant was in the 51st year of his age. His agitation of mind is said to have contributed not a little to this melancholy event. He had before acted, indeed, as a stage-manager in Dublin, under Mr. Daly; but his labours now were on a grander scale, and with a far more gigantic establishment. A numerous body of actors and actresses were not only to be kept in good humour, but all those delicate shades of colouring incident to the Green-Room, were to be adjusted with the utmost scrupulosity. In addition to this the board of Managers was to be courted and attended to with the most punctilious observance. It has been said, indeed, that Mr. Raymond had actually penned a letter of twelve or fourteen pages to Peter Moore, Esq., the chairman, which, not a little, hurt both his nerves and his feelings, and is reported to have brought on the distemper that at length proved fatal. If this be correct, it is the second death within

a very short period, occasioned by the management of Drury-Lane Theatre ! Soon after his demise, a play was performed for the benefit of his respectable widow and children, which we trust, has proved advantageous.

*List of the Works of the late Mr. Raymond.*

1. The Life of Thomas Dermody, 2 vols. 8vo. 1805.
2. The Harp of Erin, or Poetical Works of Thomas Dermody, 2 vols. 8vo. 1807.
3. Two unpublished Tragedies.



## No. XXX.

## SIR JOHN PALMER, BART.

THE Palmers of Carlton, in Northamptonshire, boast of an ancient lineage, having been seated at Stoni-Stanton, in the county of Leicester, so early as 1408. The baronetcy was obtained in 1660; and Sir Geoffery, the first who possessed that title, had a seat in parliament, and must have been a man of some consequence, as he was selected one of the managers for conducting the prosecution of the famous Earl of Strafford. Having changed sides, and being bred to the bar, he was advanced to the rank of Attorney-General by Charles II., soon after the Restoration.

Sir Lewis, his eldest surviving son, seems to have both lived and died in great privacy; but his grandson, Sir Geoffery, sat as Knight of the Shire for the county of Leicester in four successive parliaments.

Sir John Palmer, the fifth and last Baronet, was the only surviving son of Sir Thomas, by Jemima daughter of Sir John Harpur, Bart., a grand-daughter of Thomas Lord Crew. He was born in 1735, succeeded his father, Sir Thomas, in 1765; and three years after, married Charlotte daughter of Sir Harry Gough, a Warwickshire baronet, and grand-daughter of Thomas Lord Crew, by whom he had eight children, six sons and two daughters. He died at his seat in Northamptonshire in 1817, at the age of eighty-two, after having represented the county of Leicester in Parliament during fifteen years, from 1765 to 1780, at which period he retired to his patrimonial estate. He was a gentleman of pure and virtuous principles, steadily and zealously attached to the

Establishment in Church and State and eminently distinguished for a high sense of duty, in every relation of life. He was a good father, an affectionate husband, a kind master, and a firm friend. The neighbourhood will experience the severe loss of a liberal benefactor, and the community at large, that of a valuable example.

## No. XXXI.

THE RIGHT HON.

JAMES-EDWARD LORD ARUNDEL OF WARDOUR

(May 4, 1605),

AND COUNT OF THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE (1595).

“ DEO DATA.” — *Mot.*

THIS is an ancient family which has flourished during many years, in the west of England. It is most likely that it derives its origin from Normandy; for at the general survey, soon after the conquest, Roger de Arundel was found to be possessed of 28 lordships in the county of Somerset alone, (20th of William I.) as appears from the text of Domesday Book.

His descendants proved warriors of some renown. One of these, Sir John Arundel, was a valiant commander during the French wars, in the reign of Henry VI. and his grandson, of the same name, was dubbed a knight, on account of the courage displayed by him in the battles of Terouen and Tournay. Of his sons, Sir John, the eldest, was ancestor of the Arundels of Lanherne, in the county of Cornwall; while a second, Sir Thomas, obtained a grant of Wardour Castle, in Wiltshire, from the crown; but the latter was beheaded in 1552, under pretence of conspiring against the life of John Dudley Duke of Northumberland. His son, Sir Matthew, however, was knighted in 1574, and his grandson Sir Thomas, was created Lord Arundel, Baron of Wardour, by James I.

This nobleman, like his progenitors, addicted himself to warlike pursuits, and was romantic enough to take up arms against the Turks, then denominated Infidels, who wished to over-run all the Christian powers of Europe. He accordingly

served under the Austrian banners in Hungary, and in consequence of his gallantry was created a Count of "the Sacred Roman Empire," by the Emperor Rodolphus II. the patent of which title is dated at Prague, Dec. 4, 1595, and the rank and honours are extended to him and his descendants for ever.

Thomas, the second Lord, married the gallant \* Blanche, sixth daughter of Edward eleventh Earl of Worcester, and seems to have led a quiet life, notwithstanding he appears to have been a Roman Catholic; but his son and successor Henry, was committed a close prisoner to the Tower of London, together with several other noblemen of the same persuasion, on the infamous testimony of the profligate Titus Oates. He was afterwards however admitted to bail, and liberated when the arts and perjuries of that miscreant had been fully detected.

Henry, the seventh Lord, in 1739, married Mary, daughter and heir of Richard Arundel Béaling, of Lanherne, in the county of Cornwall, Esq., by which match he re-united the two chief branches of this family, after a separation of 200 years, and thus brought a considerable addition to the fortune of the younger, which happened to be the ennobled branch.

Henry, the late Lord, travelled for many years on the Continent, and resided successively at the courts of Versailles, Vienna, and Berlin; at the two former of which he was well received on account of his professing that very religion which disqualified him from any honourable or lucrative post in his own country. As his ancient seat of Wardour Castle was ruined in the time of the civil wars, when his ancestors had taken part with Charles I. he erected a noble mansion in its vicinity, a circumstance which contributed not a little to embarrass his fortune.

On the demise of this nobleman, who had no male issue, Dec. 4, 1808, he was succeeded by his first cousin.

\* This heroine, with a garrison of only 200 men, defended Arundel Castle against a parliamentary army consisting of 1300 troops, during six days, at the end of which period she obtained an honourable capitulation. This intrepid female died in 1649.

James Everard Arundel, the 9th Lord, was born March 4, 1763; and on February 3, 1785, married his second cousin, Mary Christiana, eldest daughter of Henry the preceding Baron, by whom he had seven children. This lady having died in 1805, he afterwards selected for his wife, Mary, daughter of Robert Burnet Jones, Esq. by whom he had two daughters.

Being, like all his immediate progenitors, of the Roman Catholic persuasion, he of course hesitated to subscribe the oaths prescribed to such as are allowed to take their seats in the House of Lords, and was thus excluded from many of the benefits of peerage. The same reason that prohibited him from his seat in Parliament, also precluded him from any honourable employment in the service of his country; but the rigour of our ancient statutes have been greatly softened since that period, in respect to those who serve either in the army or the fleet.

His lordship was accordingly obliged to lead a life of seclusion, but being a man of amiable manners, he was greatly beloved. He died at Bath, July 14, 1817, in his 57th year, and was succeeded in the family honours and estates by his eldest son Everard, the tenth Lord.

## No. XXXII.

## LIEUTENANT-COLONEL MELLISH,

EQUERRY TO HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE REGENT.

THE Mellishes of Yorkshire, partly by trade, and partly by advantageous contracts with, and situations under government, have attained considerable fortunes. The gentleman who is the subject of this brief memoir, chose to depart from the plain and beaten track pursued by his forefathers; but how far this deviation proved advantageous to him, either on the score of health or property, is no longer equivocal. Indeed, his life, if written by an able biographer, minutely acquainted with the various particulars of it, would not only form a most interesting episode, but at the same time prove an useful *Vade Mecum* for every gay young man, either on the *Town* or *Turf*, on his entering into life.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mellish was born in 1777. His father, —— Mellish\*, Esq. of Blythe near, Doncaster, in the county of York, was a man who possessed considerable landed estates in that shire. At an early age his son was sent to a public school, where he soon exhibited a very ardent temperament, utterly insusceptible, indeed, of controul, but not of instruc-

\* The father of the subject of this biographical notice sat for some time in parliament for the borough of East Retford. He supported Lord North's administration; and afterwards obtained the lucrative office of Receiver-General of the Excise. His half-brother, Mr. Charles Mellish, was shot in his carriage a few years since by a highwayman.

William Mellish, Esq., knight of the shire for the county of Middlesex, is uncle to the late Lieutenant-Colonel Mellish. Another member of this family, long enjoyed a most extensive as well as lucrative contract for the supply of the *virtualling* department during a large portion of the late contest with France.

His town-house in Albemarle-street is now converted into the "Royal Institution."

tion, for he attained an early proficiency in the classics, although at the same time his masters found it extremely difficult, if not wholly impossible, to regulate his conduct by the rules prescribed for other boys of the same age. It is but little wonder that the army should exhibit powerful attractions for such a character; and he, of course, aspired to a command in the cavalry.

Mr: Mellish accordingly became a cornet in the 11th Regiment of Light Dragoons, but this corps does not appear to have been either sufficiently gay or expensive for one of his turn of mind. He accordingly exchanged into the 10th Hussars, under the immediate command of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, before he was of age, and soon entered into a brilliant, but short and dangerous career, which, in progress of time, would have consumed the best fortune and strongest constitution in the kingdom.

On attaining the term of twenty-one, which is not always the exact period of discretion, it was soon perceived that he was eminently deficient in point of experience, and he accordingly became the prey of men older and far more cunning than himself.

Captain Mellish (for he had now attained a troop) was actuated by that ambition which frequently inspires noble sentiments, and leads some men to the most glorious deeds of patriotism and of valour: but in him, it was ambition misdirected; or rather it was a love of notoriety, which led him to three different pursuits; and although each had a different *starting-post*, yet all terminated at the same *goal*!

Our gay young officer of cavalry first appeared on the turf, with no small degree both of splendour and reputation. To qualify himself for this expensive and dangerous sport, he entirely dedicated that time and those talents which, if consecrated to better objects, might have made him an excellent legislator, an able statesman, and a benefactor to his country. Since the epoch when the Duke of Queensberry appeared at Newmarket, no one had attained a greater precision in the noble arts of feeding, currying, bleeding, purging, and training

horses. He actually studied the osteology of his favourite animal; he made himself accurately, and it may be termed *professionally*, acquainted with the powers, good qualities, strength, and capabilities of the race-horse; he attained an exact knowledge of weights and distances; he knew the names, characters, habits, and peculiarities of all the noted riding and training grooms; and, in short, to a Bunbury's eye, seemed to have superadded a Foley's head. But did this wayward species of knowledge lead either to true fame, or honourable reputation? Did it enable him to retain,—or what, perhaps, would have been a merit of a very equivocal kind,—to increase his patrimonial fortune? The cool calculating head of the late Mr. Ogden, and the gains of all who betted against him, will best answer this question. Although he knew the *odds*, as well as if he had been a disciple of *Demoivre*, yet they contrived so to *hedge* themselves, and *ditch* him, (without recurring to the remotest idea of any foul play whatsoever,) that he was soon forced to retire with a fallen crest, an irritable set of nerves, and a diminished fortune! What can be expected from the man that stakes his all, or *nearly his all*, on the faith, honesty, and chaste conduct of a beggarly boy, who, after being bred in the stables at Doncaster or Newmarket, among jockeys of the worst and lowest description, are placed in the scale for the purpose of adjusting—not their consciences, but their weights?

However, Mr. Mellish did not confine himself to one species of celebrity. While the turf was in an uproar at his speculations and achievements, Hyde-Park occasionally witnessed his skill and gentility as a rider. Here again he excelled. On the road, or in the field, he could urge either a hack or a hunter to greater exertions and higher feats than any of his contemporaries. What are a few “dirty acres” in comparison to such an achievement?

As a whip, too, it was his ambition to be without a superior; and he might have been fairly elected the leader of the Barouche Club, in opposition to all the great and singular pretensions of Lord Onslow and Sir John Ladd. Captain Mellish at length attained such wonderful skill in this fashionable



mystery, that he could drive four in hand rather better than the coachman of the York mail; while he contrived to manage his reins with greater facility than a Bond-street buck can regulate his *Dennett*. But not contented with this, he displayed his superior excellence by the selection of shy, skittish, jibing, and unruly horses, in the management of which our hero appeared unequalled.

At the same time, Captain Mellish was not insensible to another species of *glory*! He became the patron, the protector, and, what was far better, the *treasurer* of the most noted pugilists! In this capacity he not unfrequently initiated the provincial novice in all the secrets of the art; while he, at the same time, encouraged the veteran who had sometimes bullied and bled, and been mauled, and not unfrequently fought shy, and proved recreant, as exactly suited the interests of himself and his employers. It was thus that he rescued the honour of the English name from disgrace, and taught foreign nations to make a due estimate of the vigilance of the magistrates, our obedience to the laws, our respect for sobriety, and our love of order!

But these various pursuits, however expensive in themselves, would have proved insufficient, perhaps, to have wasted the gains and the savings of his opulent ancestors, had not the dice-box been called in to quicken the operation. After this, the auctioneer and his hammer are matters of course, and they were accordingly resorted to at last.

His friends, who had been always anxious to reclaim Mr. Mellish, now again kindly interposed, and, for the first time, with some degree of effect. He accordingly, at their instigation, relinquished the pleasures of the gaming table, and all the fascinations of Tattersall's, and the pugilistic ring, for exploits of a very different kind. The gallant General Sir Rowland Ferguson having been pleased to appoint him one of his *Aides-de-camp*, he repaired in his suite to Spain and Portugal, and readily exposed himself to conflicts which, however dangerous they might appear, were assuredly far less hazardous than those he had formerly exposed himself to in St.

James's Street and Pall-Mall. This part of his conduct is highly laudable and deserves our most hearty commendation.

At length towards the conclusion of the Peninsular war, he returned to his native country, and either then or soon after obtained the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel by *brevet* in the army, and nearly at the same time, if we are not mistaken, he was appointed Equerry to the Prince of Wales, a post for which, as he excelled in horsemanship, he must be allowed to have been admirably qualified.

He now determined to *settle* in life; and accordingly, as a first step, repaired to his farm at Hodsack Priory, to which he had been enabled to return both with safety and honour, in consequence of the judicious arrangements of several of his friends; for these gentlemen, by the judicious management of his property during his absence, had contrived to save something out of the wreck. Colonel Mellish also determined, about this epoch, on another step, suggested by their prudence and his own inclinations; this was to marry. He accordingly paid his respects, and finally led to the altar, one of the daughters of the Dowager Marchioness of Lansdown, by her first husband Duke Gifford, of Castle-Jordan, in the county of Meath, Esq., whose fortune, in addition to the remnant of his own patrimony, now enabled him to live in comfort, and even in affluence, had he been so inclined: but he still longed to indulge in his former delights; for his passion for the turf appears to have been inextinguishable, and he cherished the

*Veteris Vestigia Flammæ*

until the last moment of his existence!

This unhappily was not far distant, for his constitution had sunk under the long-continued toils and turmoils of both body and mind. Accordingly a dropsy now threatened his existence, and he actually died of this disorder, produced by the ravages of *premature old age*, in the autumn of 1817! His remains were interred with those of his ancestors, at the village of Blythe, the place of his former residence; and all his horses, dogs, and cattle were soon after sold.

Thus died, entirely worn out and exhausted, in the fortieth year of his age, a period when some men only begin to live in a rational point of view, Lieutenant-Colonel Mellish. In his person he was handsome, in his manners agreeable, in his ruling passion insatiable. When we contemplate the mode in which the greater part of his life was spent, we wonder, while we admit, that to a *bad taste* for horses, hounds, jockeyship, and boxing, he united many companionable, and some extraordinary qualities. His inexhaustible flow of animal spirits made him sought after by all the young and the gay. His conversation was full of facts and anecdotes; he could at times be grave, and even serious and didactic. Nor was he wholly insensible to the graces always attendant on the fine arts. He had cultivated, and understood music; that hand, accustomed to the vulgar labours of the coachman, could occasionally wield the pencil, and afford both delight and amusement: for he could draw with skill, and paint with a considerable degree of effect, in oil.

It is truly lamentable, that such qualities and accomplishments, should have been perverted by a long series of errors, dissipation, and follies, which, as they led both to his ruin, and his death, will, it is to be hoped, serve as so many beacons to warn the gay, unthinking, and unwary. It may be seen, indeed, from the above details, that youth, beauty, and hereditary wealth, are all of little or no avail, without early prudence and decorum, coupled with a religious attachment to virtue, good conduct, and good morals.

## No. XXXIII.

CHRISTOPHER POTTER, Esq.

EX-M. P. FOR COLCHESTER.

THE early part of the life of Mr. Potter, appears to be lost in obscurity. We first hear of him, in the administration of Lord North, during the American war, when he became a contractor for government. At that eventful period, without being a baker by trade, he contrived to acquire a considerable fortune, by *manufacturing* bread for the army ; and it will be seen in the course of his future pursuits, that by means of the *oven*, he afterwards contrived to acquire and maintain, no small share of reputation.

Had the subject of this brief memoir, confined himself to his *contract*, he would doubtless have realised the most sanguine expectations of an ardent, and ambitious mind. But as Colchester had been for some time the scene of his glory ; so it also was fated to become the scene of his defeat. Not content with supplying *batches of bread*, he now aspired to the less profitable trade, of polling *batches of electors*, a business, in which, notwithstanding his accurate knowledge of old "Cocker," he appears to have been a mere novice !

On the death of Isaac Martin Rebow, Esq., in 1781, the colleague of the late Sir Robert Smyth, Bart., the Speaker issued his warrant for a new writ to the Clerk of the Crown, on the 12th of November. On this occasion two candidates started for public favour ; the one was Captain, afterwards Admiral Affleck ; who we believe was countenanced by the ministerial interest, and Mr. Christopher Potter, ex-contractor, and now become a staunch patriot, who appeared on

the popular side. The immense expenses usually incurred, in bringing down the out-voters, and influencing the resident electors was not diminished on the present occasion; and accordingly a very long and vigorous contest ensued. At the end of this protracted conflict, Mr. Potter appeared to have the majority on the poll; but a Committee of the House of Commons decided it otherwise; for at length it was resolved, March 4, 1782, "That Edmund Affleck, Esq., was duly elected, and ought to have been returned!" The triumphant candidate was created a baronet a few weeks after.\*

The Ex-Member for Colchester, now disappeared from before the public eye, for a long series of years; and although his particular friends and connexions were well aware that he had emigrated to and settled in France, whither he had transferred the residue of his capital, yet it was only from the pages of the *Moniteur*, and a vote of the National Assembly †, that strangers learned of his having opened his *ovens* with no small degree of effect, on the other side of the channel.

The French have doubtless carried the art of manufacturing porcelaine to a high, and perhaps an unrivalled degree of perfection, particularly in the article of gilding. To have gone thither therefore for the purpose of entering into competition with rival dealers, must have appeared to most men a very dangerous and unprofitable speculation. Certain it is, however, that the china produced under his inspection and superintendence, exhibited an extraordinary portion of beauty, taste, and elegance. To attain this, he applied himself with no common degree of attention and perseverance to chemical researches, for the purpose of improving the colours, while he had acquired a surprising skill in the mechanical part of his art. At length, by an union of both, not only particular ornaments, but *long sets and services*, as well as rare, unique, and expensive articles, on issuing from his furnaces seemed instantly to acquire a certain degree of celebrity and renown that put

\* May 28, 1782. He was afterwards promoted a Rear-Admiral of the Blue, on February 10, 1784.

† "Citizen Potter has deserved well of his country."

superiority to defiance. The warehouses of Seve, have indeed flourished by means of regal protection before and imperial patronage after the period here alluded to; but during the short-lived and disastrous epoch of the French commonwealth, this elegant art was left to individual competition alone; and it was an Englishman who proved the most successful candidate for fame.

There is every reason to suppose that Mr. Potter, previously to his death, which occurred in 1817, had relinquished this, in order to engage in some other pursuit: for he was both speculative and eccentric, and with these qualities, which are sufficiently common, he united a gift that but rarely accompanies them; for he could calculate by memory alone with a promptitude that astonished the beholder, and at the same time with a degree of precision, that could only be equalled by the slow and painful operations of the counting-house!

## No. XXXIV.

## SIR JOSEPH MAWBEY, BART.

THE Mawbeys claim their descent from the village of Mawtby, in the county of Norfolk; but they owe their wealth and title to the manufactories of this great and opulent island. Mr. Joseph Mawbey, was for many years engaged in a large and profitable distillery at Vauxhall; and by the conversion of malt into British spirits and vinegar, realised a considerable fortune; which was increased by a marriage in 1760, with his cousin, Miss Pratt, who finally succeeded to the joint fortunes of both her father and brother. As a multitude of hogs were fattened at his, like all other distilleries near town; this afforded ample scope for jests and puns, when he became a member of parliament.

Both in 1761, and 1768, this gentleman served as a Burgess for Southwark; in 1765, he was created a Baronet. On the death of Sir Francis Vincent he was elected knight of the shire for the county of Surrey, as well as in 1780 and 1784; and on all these occasions his conduct was exemplary and correct. He was also distinguished as a chairman of the quarter sessions.

The late Sir Joseph, was one of the nine children by the heiress just alluded to, who died in 1790. He was born about the year 1763, and succeeded his father in 1798. Two years anterior to this (Aug. 9, 1796), he married Miss Charlotte Catherine Mary Henchman, daughter of Thomas Henchman, Esq., of Littleton, in the county of Middlesex, by whom he had issue two daughters; so that the baronetcy is extinct for want of a male heir.

This gentleman resided at Bottley's, near St. Anne's-hill, in Surrey, and once presented himself as a candidate for that county.

The remains of Sir Joseph were interred at Chertsey: the attempt to render his obsequies simple and without pomp was frustrated by the numerous applications from persons desirous of showing their last testimony of regard. The poor in him have lost a friend, as he performed his duties as a magistrate with unbiassed rectitude, and by living on his estate conduced to the benefit of all around him.

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No. XXXV.

THE REV. WILLIAM BELOE, B.D. F.S.A.

RECTOR OF ALL-HALLOWS, LONDON-WALL ; PREBENDARY OF ST. PANCRAZ, IN ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL ; AND PREBENDARY OF LINCOLN.

MR. BELOE, was born in 1756-7, and died in 1817, at his house in Kensington Square. He was a man of very extensive erudition; he possessed great loyalty and zeal; and at one period, was laborious in the extreme. He first distinguished himself by his translation of Herodotus; and acquired a certain degree of literary eminence, in consequence of his various publications.

We have been promised a biographical memoir of this gentleman, and hope to be able to insert it, if not in the appendix to the present, at least in our next volume.



## No. XXXVI.

## THE RIGHT HON. THE COUNTESS OF ALBEMARLE.

THIS much lamented lady was the fourth daughter of the late Edward Lord Southwell, Baron de Clifford, Westmoreland, and Vesci, by Sophia, third daughter of Samuel Campbell, of Mount Campbell, in the county of Leitrim, Esq. The Hon. Elizabeth Southwell was born June 11th, 1776, and educated in a manner suitable to her rank and pretensions, under the immediate care of an accomplished and most exemplary mother, who, indeed, afterwards acquired so high and exalted a character in England, as to have a Princess, at once the hope and ornament of the nation, committed to her charge.

At a very early age, (on April the 9th, 1792,) this young lady became the wife of the Right Hon. William-Charles Keppel, seventh Earl of Albemarle, by whom she had no fewer than fifteen children. Of these, eleven, including Lord Bury, her eldest son, still survive, to deplore the loss of a fond and affectionate parent !

In consequence of the Dowager Lady de Clifford's official connection with, and, still more, her friendship and uninterrupted attachment to the late Princess Charlotte of Wales, her daughter, the Countess of Albemarle, had frequent opportunities of visiting at Warwick-House. This intercourse soon produced a reciprocal regard; and Her Royal Highness, among many marks of her affection, a few years since presented Her Ladyship with a bust of Mr. Fox, cut by the chisel of Nollekens, which is preserved, with religious veneration, at Elvedon in Suffolk. It was accompanied with a letter, replete with affection, regard, and esteem. Indeed, the demise of this estimable Countess, is supposed to have arisen purely

from sympathy, at the sudden, mournful, and unexpected fate of the amiable Princess, just alluded to. The account this event was disclosed to her, with every possible preparation, that delicacy could suggest, or tenderness anticipate, more especially as Her Ladyship was then in the *family way*. Happening to be at that period at Holkham-Hall, in Norfolk, the seat of Mr. Coke, with whom the Earl of Albemarle her husband has always lived in terms of the most unrestricted intimacy, preparations were made for their return to Suffolk, although the *accouchement* was not expected until the lapse of a few weeks: but on the 13th of November, exactly seven days after the demise of her illustrious friend; and but three or four after the communication of the fatal intelligence, Her Ladyship was seized with the pains of premature labour! On this, recurrence was instantly had to the best medical advice that could be procured; but in seventeen hours after experiencing the first throes, this estimable woman was a corpse.

The latter portion of this time was truly affecting: for, being fully conscious of her fate, the Countess called for the Earl to approach her bed, and pressing his hand in her own, so long as life afforded the least muscular energy, with her latest breath she invoked all the blessings of heaven on the head of her dear husband and children, and then immediately expired!

Thus died like a heroine, in the 42d year of her age, Elizabeth Countess of Albemarle, who, as a daughter, a wife, a mother, and a friend, is fully entitled to unmixed praise. It is to be hoped, that so bright an exemplar of all that is good, amiable, and estimable, will not pass away without producing a due effect on the age and country in which she lived and died.

## No. XXXVII.

## MR. THOMAS CORAM,

## THE PRINT COLLECTOR.

To the philanthropy of a former Thomas Coram, born in the early part of the eighteenth century (1718), we are indebted for the establishment of the Foundling Hospital, within the precincts of which he was buried; and a new street in its vicinity, which now bears his name, and was built upon his estate, attests the well-merited gratitude of the present age.

The gentleman of whom we now treat, was both his namesake and near relation; but his mind took a very different direction, for he became a lover of *Vertù*, and consequently a collector of every thing in his own peculiar line, so far as his scanty means extended. He not only admired, but possessed a good taste for the choicest productions of the graphic art. As he was a bachelor, and exceedingly temperate, frugal, and abstemious, while all his habits, at the same time, were simple and unexpensive, he contrived to indulge in his favourite passion. Accordingly, with an exception of the late Mr. Chauncey, who actually hired chambers for his *portfolios*, when his house could no longer contain them, Mr. Coram was allowed to possess a very rare, valuable, and almost unrivalled collection in his apartments, in Oxendon-street; but a conflagration in that quarter, during the course of one night, robbed him of the acquisitions of many years, and nearly reduced their late owner to despair. He afterwards removed, first to Lyon's Inn, and finally to Fountain-court, in the Strand, where he died in the autumn of 1817, at a good old age.

Although greatly fascinated with, and addicted to this branch of the fine arts, Mr. Coram never wielded the graver

himself, or employed his pencil, except in respect to one species of drawing; that of *caricature* portraits of remarkable looking men, whether poets, orators, or common beggars; and these he was allowed to have executed with surprising ease, facility, and effect. His humour also, like his *crayon*, was of a sarcastic kind; but untempered and unblemished with either jealousy or envy. He took care, however, notwithstanding his expensive indulgence in prints, to reserve a sufficiency of wealth for himself; not choosing, like his more celebrated relative, to be dependent during his old age, on the bounty of others. However, being like him unincumbered with a family, he determined in the same manner to indulge his own taste in the disposition of his fortune; and that we believe to a gentleman (Mr. James Caulfield) who possesses a kindred taste, and had always exhibited great kindness and attention to him, particularly in his last fatal illness.

He was buried near his father, at Battersea, in the county of Surry, and was attended to his grave by the above gentleman, accompanied by three other particular friends, viz. Messrs. Walker, Greaves, and Dyer.

## No. XXXVIII.

## SIR WILLIAM WOLSELEY, BART.

SIR William was the head of an old Staffordshire family ; and we have been told by a member of it, that the name was originally written *Wolfsley*, a fact fully justified and confirmed by the arms exhibited by himself on this occasion.

We easily trace their descent to a Baron of the Exchequer in the reign of Edward IV. ; but the pedigree goes back to Robert, a lord of a manor of the same name, in 1281.

The honour of the Baronetcy was conferred on his descendant, Robert, November 28, 1682, who, perhaps, was a lawyer, for he exercised the office of " Clerk of the King's Patents." Sir Charles, his son and successor, represented the county of Stafford during the reign of Charles I., and having married a daughter of the Viscount Say, was, doubtless, on the side of the parliament during the civil wars. His son, William, was created a Lord by Oliver Cromwell, and made Minister Plenipotentiary to the Court of Brussels, by William III., with whom he appears to have been in great favour.

Sir William, the third Baronet, was unfortunately drowned on his return from Lichfield in his chariot and four, A. D. 1728, while passing a little brook, in consequence of a sudden breach in a neighbouring mill-dam.

Sir William Wolseley, the sixth and late Baronet, was born August 24, 1740, and succeeded his father Sir William, in 1779. On July 2d, 1795 ; he married Miss Chambers, of Wimbledon, in the county of Surrey, who died in 1811. By this lady he had two children, the youngest of whom, the Reverend Robert Wolseley, ceased to exist in 1815.

The death of this Baronet was both sudden and singular. On August 5th, 1817, being then in perfect health, and residing at his seat called Wolseley-hall in the county of Stafford, he happened to take a walk in his extensive shrubberies. In the course of his usual exercise, however, he fell down and actually expired before he could be carried into his apartments. His only surviving son, now Sir Charles Wolseley, Bart., who married the daughter of the Honourable Thomas Clifford, happened to be resident, at this period, at Lyons in the south of France.

The late Sir William Wolseley attained a very considerable age, for had he lived but three weeks longer, he would have completed his seventy-seventh year.

## No. XXXIX.

## THE REV. WILLIAM HANBURY, B. A.

RECTOR OF CHURCH-LANGTON, IN THE COUNTY OF LEICESTER.

THIS clergyman, was the son of the late Rev. William Hanbury, M. A., a worthy and orthodox divine, of the Church of England, who is entitled to no common share of praise, in a variety of ways. He not only distinguished himself by a superior method of planting and rearing forest-trees, both deciduous, and ever-greens, but also excited the gratitude of his country, by a celebrated work, on this very interesting, as well as important subject. Nor was he less eminent for his taste, in respect to flowers and esculent plants. In addition to this, he employed a considerable portion of his fortune in establishing a fund, called after him, “the Hanbury Charity,” to “instruct the ignorant, assist the curious, adorn the parish \*, and benefit Leicestershire, and the neighbouring county of Rutland.”

According to Mr. Gough, the celebrated antiquary, the late Mr. Hanbury seems to have brought to the utmost degree of maturity, and stability human affairs are capable of, this singular undertaking, of raising from a plantation of all the various trees, plants, &c. the world produces, a yearly fund of near 10,000*l*.” for the purpose above specified. †

\* Church-Langton in the county of Leicester.

† The Rev. William Hanbury, Sen. died Feb. 28, 1778, in his 53d year, and in compliance with his own will, his remains were deposited in a mausoleum, lined with yellow stucco, and built by himself. The coffin is covered with black velvet, and ornamented with silver furniture, which is never to be suffered to tarnish; here also is a bust of himself; a cell is to be built for a poor woman, who is to open the door regularly every day, for which she is to receive 2*s*. 6*d* a week.

William, the son of this worthy, and public spirited ecclesiastic, being intended for the church, was sent to the University at a proper age, where he attained the degree of Bachelor of Arts. Having afterwards become Deacon, and Priest in succession, in 1792, we find him succeeding to his father's living, having inducted himself into the rectory of Church-Langton, on his own presentation, being both patron and impropriator of the same. In addition to his parochial duties, he exerted himself also, as a magistrate, in his division of the county; and died, whilst still young, in the month of March, 1817.



## No. XL.

## THOMAS SHERIDAN, Esq.

THIS gentleman was the only son of the late Right Hon. Richard Brinsley Sheridan, by his first wife, the accomplished Eliza Linley, who died in 1792. Mr. Thomas Sheridan was educated under the immediate inspection, for he resided in the family, of the celebrated Dr. Parr, and it is not a little remarkable, that this sole surviving member of the Grecian *triumvirate*\* should have been the instructor of his father nearly half a century before, while under-master at Harrow-school. Young Sheridan next repaired to Cambridge, where he was entered a gentleman-commoner. Notwithstanding these initiatory studies, and the example of the elder Mr. Sheridan, who had distinguished himself both by his writings and his eloquence, young Sheridan's destination proved to be the army, by his own particular choice. He accordingly obtained a commission, and Lord Moira, a friend of the family, happening to be then Commander-in-chief in Scotland, appointed him one of his *Aides-de-camp*. In this capacity he accordingly resided in the splendid mansion† of his patron: and as he was unluckily accustomed to keep bad hours, the noble Earl determined to expose the impropriety of such conduct in the gentlest, but most effectual way possible. Accordingly one evening he sent all the servants to bed, and sat up himself until four or five in the morning, when this, who happened to be the junior officer on his staff, returned in *high spirits* from a ball. He was not permitted to knock long, for his illustrious commander obeyed the first summons with the utmost promptitude, and

\* Mr. Porson, Dr. Burney, and Dr. Parr.

† The house of the Earl of Wemyss, at Edinburgh.

going down with a couple of candles, ceremoniously lighted the astonished subaltern to his bed-chamber !

It was from the northern part of the island that Mr. Thomas Sheridan selected a wife ; a handsome, fine young lady, of a very ancient family, who survives him. Miss Callendar was descended originally from the stock of the Earls of Callendar, but more immediately from a baronet of the same name and family ; and by her he has had several children.

His father, to whom this alliance was unknown, at length acceded, with some degree of reluctance, to the match, which, with an exception in point of fortune alone, appears to have been highly eligible in every other respect.

Soon after this, Mr. T. Sheridan became a candidate for a seat in parliament, but failed : so that although we are well acquainted with his wit, it remains to be conjectured whether his eloquence was also hereditary. The borough of Leskeard, so famous in the annals of Cornish electioneering, was the place for which he stood in 1806, when the Whigs were again in power. On this occasion, the Hon. William Eliot, son of Lord Eliot, appeared first on the poll : but in respect to the two other candidates, viz. William Huskisson and Thomas Sheridan, Esqrs., as there was a keen contest, and a double return, a reference was made to a committee of the House of Commons, and the question on this occasion chiefly turned on the nature of the franchises claimed by the votes for the respective parties. By the decision which finally took place, Mr. Huskisson was found to be “duly elected,” and it was at the same time declared, “that the right of election was in the mayor and burgesses.” Thus was the subject of this notice finally discomfited, not only here, but afterwards at Stafford, which were the only attempts ever made by him to obtain a seat in parliament.

Soon after this, Mr. Thomas Sheridan found it necessary to repair to the island of Madeira, in consequence of a pulmonary affection, and thither he was accompanied by his wife. On that occasion, such was the *res angusta domi*, that two

noble families (Northumberland and Devonshire) are said to have subscribed 1000*l.* each towards the equipment. \*

At length this branch of the Sheridans returned once more to England, where he acted for a short time as manager of Drury Lane: but it was found not only convenient but highly desirable, on account of the climate, to accept the office of colonial paymaster at the Cape of Good Hope, the salary of which has been estimated at 1200*l.* sterling. His health, however, continued to decline, and he fell a martyr to disease at this settlement on September the 12th, 1817. His body has been since transferred to England.

Thus perished at an early age, Mr. Thomas Sheridan, but a short time after the demise of his father, and a few months antecedent to that of his mother-in-law; in short, all three died within twelve months of each other. He has left a widow and several children wholly unprovided for, to deplore his premature fate; for his wit, his humour, and his repartees produced nothing but barren applause; and as for his convivial talents, by attracting company, and producing late hours, although they served to embellish, they at the same time shortened life.

\* It has been recently stated, in Vol. i. p. 492. of the "Memoirs of the Right Hon. R. B. Sheridan, that "a subscription, amounting to 10,000*l.* was raised by several of the royal family, and principal nobility," for Mr. T. Sheridan, "on account of his loss at the theatre, (by the conflagration of Drury Lane,) and to enable him to visit a warmer climate for his health."

## No. XLI.

THE REV. SIR ADAM GORDON, BART. M.A.

PREBENDARY OF BRISTOL. &amp;c.

THE ancestors of this Baronet came originally from France, and were first known by the appellation of *De Gurdon*. The eldest branch of the family, called "the Muckle Gordons," seated themselves in the south of Scotland; another attained ducal honours on the banks of the Spey, while a third, settling in Ireland, one of its members procured a Baronetcy in 1764.

Sir Adam Gordon was born in 1745, a year not a little memorable both to England and Scotland. After receiving a liberal education, and attaining the degrees of B. A. and M. A., he closely addicted himself to the study of divinity, and became first a deacon, and then a priest of the Church of England, to which he was afterwards an ornament, by his example, his talents, and his writings.

If we mistake not, long after entering into holy orders, he officiated for some time as a curate to the populous and opulent parish of St. Mary-le-Bone, which now possesses a splendid chapel, in addition to the small place of worship which then only existed. Soon after this he married\*, and retired into the country. In respect to benefices, Sir Adam obtained in succession, the rectory of Hinchworth in Hertfordshire, a prebendal stall in the cathedral of Durham, and the living of West Tilbury in the county of Essex. In these several capacities, he distinguished himself by an earnest and unvarying attention to his various duties: and, accordingly, we find him not only preaching to all, but also catechising and

\* Lady Gordon died but a short time before her husband, who entertained so high a respect for her memory, that he left a very considerable legacy to a lady who lived with her as a friend and companion, and resided afterwards with himself, until his demise. Notwithstanding his numerous and extensive charities, Sir Adam appears to have died rich.

instructing after the manner of the primitive Church of Christ, both the young and uninformed.

This reverend Baronet endeavoured also, to dedicate his pen, as well as his pulpit, to the service of public morals, having, many years since, fairly and openly combated all the pernicious positions laid down in a very seductive book, generally placed in the hands of our youth on entering the world, which shall be named hereafter. He was moreover a zealous and courageous defender of the Church of England, whose fasts and festivals he elucidated, enforced, and explained, in his printed discourses. He also celebrated our triumphs during the late war, particularly by a thanksgiving sermon on the victory over the combined fleet, while he dedicated another to the praise of His present Majesty George III., on attaining the fiftieth anniversary of his reign; an occurrence seldom commemorated, even by the sovereigns of Europe.

It was thus that Sir Adam spent a long and useful life, which was at last terminated, in what may be fairly termed, "actual professional service," for he was smote by the hand of death, when in progress from his prebendal residence at Bristol, to his rectory at West Tilbury. This melancholy occurrence took place, November 2d, 1817, at the Castle Inn, Salt-Hill, after a short illness, in the seventy-second year of his age.

The following eulogy was penned by the hand of friendship: "Of the character of this excellent man, little need be said among those who personally knew him. But beyond that circle it is necessary that a few particulars should be conveyed; that the benefit of eminent example may not be limited to the boundary of private friendship. Such of his professional labours as have been committed to the press, exhibit him as one who was ever desirous of contributing to the welfare of his fellow-creatures. But the brightest view of his character was to be obtained, by observing how he lived in the two parishes of which he was successively rector; Hinchworth in Hertfordshire, and West Tilbury in Essex. In these retired situations, he filled up the measure of pastoral duties, with an exemplariness which must endear his memory

to every inhabitant whose taste has not been vitiated by habits of profligacy. He was ever ready to render the temporal condition of his parishioners more comfortable. This, however, was not the whole of his worth. He never forgot the principal object of his vocation, the eternal happiness of his flock. For this he took the utmost pains in the composition of his sermons; that they might forcibly inculcate Christian principles, expose vice, cherish hope, and be intelligible to every member of that humble peasantry committed to his care; for to persons of this condition in life, it was his lot to minister in sacred things, except in the short intervals of his residence at Bristol; where to the last he was honoured with a crowded auditory, whenever he ascended the cathedral pulpit. But it was not to preaching that his pastoral labours were confined. He was observant of the duty of catechising youth. He paid out of his own pocket for the education of poor children. He visited the sick as an instructor. He endeavoured to restrain the profligate; and not only countenanced the sober and industrious, but endeavoured to help them forward in their worldly concerns, as well as to further their religious improvement. With all this, there was no sectarian mixture. Of the necessity of making his parishioners rightly understand the present state of human nature, and the remedies which infinite wisdom and mercy has provided for the evils to which it is exposed, he showed himself fully aware. But this end he pursued in such a manner, as never presented him to the world under any other aspect than that of a clergyman of the Church of England. As a husband, a master of a family, a friend, he was not only respected, but beloved, by those who had the greatest interest in his possessing the virtues which adorn these relations. Nor was it on these only that the benevolence of his nature flowed. His charities to the poor of his neighbourhood were much beyond what his means of relieving their wants would encourage us to expect. In addition to these, he generally had some case of foreign distress in hand; in the management of which, he was often laboriously employed, by writing a number of letters, and by applying in other forms to the humane, in behalf of his client. To which expense

of *time* must be added, what it cost him to set the example of that charity he solicited: an expense from which he never excused himself. In this brief account, the partiality of friendship has not produced a single exaggeration. It is a simple relation of facts, to which many can bear witness; and to the soothing recollection of which, amplified by numerous instances which have passed under their own observation, they often resort, now that the intercourse they had with one in whom so many endearing qualities resided is at an end."

*Gent. Mag.*

*List of the Works of the Rev. Sir Adam Gordon, Bart.*

1. The Contrast, or an Antidote to the pernicious Principles disseminated in Lord Chesterfield's Letters to his Son, 2 vols. 12mo. 1791.
2. Affectionate Advice from a Minister of the Established Church to his parishioners, 12mo. 1791.
3. The plain Duties of Wise and Christian subjects, (preached on the commencement of the War with the French Republic,) 8vo. 1793.
4. Plain Sermons, on Practical Subjects, 2 vols. 8vo.
5. Sermons on the Fasts and Festivals of the Church of England, 8vo. 1796.
6. Homilies of the Church of England, modernized, 2 vols. 8vo.
7. Assistant for the Visitation of the Sick, 12mo.
8. The Fear of God, a sure ground of Confidence and Hope, two Fast-day Sermons, 8vo. 1803.
9. A Sermon on the Victory over the combined Fleets of France and Spain, 8vo. 1806.
10. The Righteousness of a King, the Blessedness of his People, a Sermon on the 50th Anniversary of His Majesty's Accession, 1809.

Sir Adam Gordon has also left behind him a number of MS. sermons, divinity tracts, &c., some of which he had intended to publish.

## No. XLII.

RIGHT HON. ST. ANDREW LORD ST. JOHN,  
OF BLETSOE, D. C. L. &c. &c. &c.

“ DATA FATA SECUTA.” — *Mot.*

THE St. Johns (commonly pronounced *Sinjons*) are descended from a family, originally settled at the town of St. John in Normandy. They afterwards came to, and made many great alliances in England; they also appear to have obtained considerable grants from the conqueror; for we find John de St. John possessing lands of great extent in Oxfordshire, in the time of Henry I. This line, however, terminated in a female, who married William Paulet, ancestor of the late Duke of Bolton. Her husband was afterwards created Baron St. John of Basing, and Earl of Wiltshire.

From another branch of this family, sprung Oliver, the ancestor of the St. Johns, Viscounts Bolingbroke, who was consequently the progenitor of that celebrated nobleman, whom Pope thus invokes:

“ Awake my St. John! leave all meaner things  
To low ambition, and the pride of kings;” &c.

The Honourable St. Andrew St. John, the second surviving son of John the eleventh Lord St. John of Bletsoe, by Miss Simonds, the daughter of a London merchant, was born August 22, 1759, and being a younger brother, great and singular pains were taken with his education. He was accordingly sent to Christ Church Oxford, to complete his studies. While there, he not only complied with all the rules of the University, but even aspired to its chief honours. These, were accordingly attained by him, for on May 12, 1795, he received the degree of Doctor of Civil Law.

Being intended for the bar, he had before entered himself of Lincoln's Inn, and after his admission, the term of which was



greatly shortened by his degree; he attended the court of King's Bench. We believe, that he was the first of late years, who wore *a gown without a wig*\*, which encumbered his head, and prevented his hearing the elaborate decisions of William Earl of Mansfield. He obtained actual permission, we understand, from the Bench, for this omission.

But Mr. St. John, soon abjured his forensic studies, in search of honours and employments of another kind. We accordingly find him a candidate for the representation of his native county, in the fifteenth parliament of Great Britain, which met October 31, 1780; and he was returned, in conjunction with the late Earl of Upper Ossory, a peer of Ireland.

The opinions of the new Knight of the Shire, were decidedly averse to the continuance of the American war; he therefore contributed all in his power, both by his votes and his speeches, to put a speedy termination to it. On its conclusion, he formed part of the Rockingham administration, with which he had acted while in opposition; for in April 1783, we find him nominated Under-Secretary to his friend the Right Honourable Charles-James Fox, who then became one of his Majesty's principal Secretaries of State.

On the retreat of his patron from office, which was accompanied by his own resignation, he once more became a candidate for the same county, in the sixteenth parliament of Great Britain, convoked in 1784; but a contest now ensued, and he was obliged to petition the House. A committee having declared him "duly elected," in consequence of this decision, he replaced Lord Ongley, who had been returned by the Sheriff, as the sitting member. In the new parliaments of 1790, and 1796, we find him elected in conjunction with his opponent Mr. John Osborne, son of Sir George; and he was also returned with the same colleague, during the two first Imperial parliaments, in 1801, and 1802. Thus, Mr. St. John appears to have represented the county of Bedford, during the

\* The editor has been informed by a King's counsel of considerable standing that Robert Burton, Esq., a Welch Judge, was another exemption.

long, and almost unexampled term of twenty-five years. On the impeachment of Mr. Hastings, this able and eloquent Commoner, was deemed of such consequence, as to be appointed one of the managers \*, and acquitted himself with singular firmness and decorum upon this occasion. † He was also a strenuous opposer of Mr. Pitt's Regency bill.

On the demise of his elder brother, the Right Honourable Henry Beauchamp St. John, on December 16, 1805, (who had no issue by Miss Emma Whitbread, second daughter of the first Samuel Whitbread, Esq.) he succeeded to the honours and estates, as Baron St. John of Bletsoe. His Lordship supported the same party as a peer, which had obtained his aid when a member of the House of Commons; and he spoke several times with his wonted talents and abilities.

During the second administration of Mr. Fox, by whom he was greatly esteemed, he obtained the office of Captain of the Band of Gentlemen-Pensioners; and at a period of considerable alarm, he also accepted a commission in the Bedfordshire volunteers.

Lord St. John, was at one time an orator of some note. His two best speeches, as a commoner, were those delivered on opening one of the charges against the Ex-Governor-general Warren Hastings, in 1787; and that in 1789, when he seconded Mr. Baker's motion, on "the state of the nation." He also distinguished himself in the House of Lords, in 1808, against the "Orders in Council;" on which occasion, the resolutions moved by his lordship, were supported by forty-seven peers.

On July 16, 1807, Lord St. John married Louisa, eldest daughter of Sir Charles-William-Rouse Broughton, Bart., of Downton Hall, in the county of Norfolk, by whom he had issue, several children. This nobleman, who had attained the age of fifty-eight, died at his seat at Melchburn, in Bedfordshire, in 1817, leaving his widow pregnant. He is succeeded by his eldest son, a boy, only seven years old.

\* Dec. 5th, 1807.

† In 1791, he opened the fourth article of the printed charges.

## No. XLIII.

JOSIAH BOYDELL, Esq.

LATE AN ALDERMAN OF LONDON, LIEUT.-COLONEL COMMANDANT  
OF THE HAMPSTEAD VOLUNTEERS, &c. &c.

THE name of Boydell is connected with the history and progress of the art of engraving in England. One of this family (the late Alderman John Boydell), first distinguished himself by his “Sketches of Bridges,” and when afterwards clad in the *regalia* of the city, one day pointing to these early works, which were bound together for sale, he observed, “This is the first book that ever made a Lord Mayor of London.”

Josiah, the nephew, originally bred in his counting-house, afterwards became his partner; and finally his successor in a business, which that firm not only rendered highly lucrative for themselves, but also not a little advantageous to their country. When Mr. John Boydell first commenced business, French prints were imported annually, to the amount of many thousand pounds; and yet he lived to behold the balance of trade, in respect to this elegant branch of the fine arts, more than tripled in our favour.

On his lamented demise, in 1805, the subject of this brief memoir succeeded to his alderman’s gown; like him, in due time, he would have filled the civic chair, had not his declining health obliged him to resign all his pretensions, five years after.

Having been the senior officer of the *corps of volunteers* enrolled near his own house at West-End, Hampstead, he was afterwards elected their Lieutenant-Colonel. He also served the respectable office of Master to the Stationers’ Company; but both his spirits and strength failing, he retired to the pleasant village of Halliford, in the county of Middlesex, where he died March 27, 1817.

Mr. Josiah Boydell was the author of a pamphlet published in 1803, entitled “Suggestions towards forming a Plan for the Improvement of the Arts and Sciences.”

## No. XLIV.

SIR WILLIAM INNES, BART.

OF BALVENIE, NORTH BRITAIN.

THE family of Innes is supposed to have been originally of Flemish extraction, and, if we are not greatly misinformed, first settled under Beroaldus Flandrensis in that fertile tract of country situate between the Spey and the Lossie, in the county of Moray. Of this line the (now ducal) house of Innes, of Innes, near Elgin, was always considered as the chief, in consequence both of tradition and records. The large possessions attached to this stem, and also the title of Baronet of Nova Scotia, which was conferred in 1628, soon after the institution of that order, serves to confirm this statement.

Sir James Innes, of Balvenie, having died in 1722, was succeeded by Robert his eldest son, who lived until 1758, when his younger brothers Charles and William, became Baronets in succession.

Sir William Innes, of Balvenie, the last of these, of whom we now treat, appears to have been the patriarch of baronets, as he was born about the year 1718. Being desirous of military fame, he served as a volunteer in the Life Guards, when they attended King George II. at the battle of Dettingen, in 1743. Mr. Innes afterwards obtained a cornetcy of horse, and rose through the successive steps of Lieutenant, Captain of a troop, and Major, until he at length attained the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel of the 2d regiment of Dragoon Guards, when he seems to have retired from the service.

After this he settled at Ipswich, where he succeeded to his family honours, and resided until his death, which occurred

March 13th, 1817. Sir William had then fully completed his 100th year; and the title was generally supposed to be extinct: but a respectable gentleman of Bamffshire, where his ancestors had considerable possessions, lately laid claim to this title; and presented such an uniform and authentic series of documents, that a jury, of which the Right Hon. James Earl of Fife was chancellor, to adopt the language of the Scottish law, “unanimously served him heir to the title.”

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No. XLV.

RICHARD LOVELL EDGEWORTH, Esq.

OF EDGEWORTH TOWN, IN IRELAND.

THIS gentleman greatly distinguished himself as a man of letters, and was fortunate in possessing a daughter worthy of himself. He died at his seat in the sister island, June 13, 1817, at the age of seventy-four.

[We intend to give a detailed account of Mr. Edgeworth's life and labours, in our next volume, for which materials are now collecting.]

## No. XLVI.

## THE REV. ROBERT TYRWHITT.

LATE FELLOW OF JESUS-COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE.

THE Tyrwhitts spring from an ancient and respectable family which has been long settled in the west of England. The subject of the present article is descended from, and actually was representative of them, being uncle of the Right Hon. Sir Thomas Tyrwhitt, who has been in succession Private Secretary, and Secretary Extraordinary to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, Auditor and Lord Warden of the Stannaries, Steward of the Duchy of Cornwall, Vice-Admiral of the same, one of the members of parliament for Plymouth, &c.

The late Mr. Robert Tyrwhitt was the son of a Residentiary of St. Paul's; and his maternal grandfather, Dr. Gibson, was Bishop of London. After receiving a prefatory education, he was sent to Jesus-College, Cambridge, where he soon distinguished himself, not only by his talents and application, but also by a certain seriousness of speech, conduct, and behaviour, that gained him the esteem of all. Ecclesiastical honours and preferment now lay before him, but he refused them all.

"With such connections as his," observes one of his friends, "he had every reason to expect high preferment in the church; but his conscience forbad him to make use of such advantages, and he resigned his fellowship, and all his expectations from the church, on the deliberate conviction of his mind, that one God only—who is emphatically stiled in Scripture the Father—and the God and Father of our Lord

Jesus Christ, is the only object of religious worship. On the resignation of his fellowship he was reduced to a very narrow income, on which he lived cheerfully and contentedly; but by the death of his brother, clerk to the House of Commons, he came into possession of a property which enabled him to act up to the dictates of a generous heart.

“ It will be incredible to the generality of readers how little he spent upon himself, and how much upon others. In every profession, divinity, law, physic, navy, army, are many to lament his loss, and to remember the kindness of a most liberal benefactor. His benevolence was not confined to any sect or party. He looked upon all as children of one common parent, and himself as a steward merely, under Providence, for what remained to him after the gratification of his natural wants, and very moderate desires.

“ Notwithstanding his separation from the church, he lived in College, highly respected by that society, and by the most distinguished members of the university. For the last eight or ten years he was confined by the gout chiefly to his rooms, and he had not slept out of College for twenty or thirty years. He was particularly well acquainted with the Statutes of the University, was associated with Jebb in his plan for the improvement of education, was a friend of the late Bishops Law and Watson; and a more strenuous advocate for liberty, civil and religious, as distinguished from anarchy and misrule, never existed. He published two sermons, preached before the University of Cambridge, the one on the Baptismal Form \*, the other on the Creation of all things by Jesus Christ; and whoever reads them will lament that the author has not explained his sentiments more fully on many parts of Scripture.”

Mr. Tyrwhitt expired in so easy a manner, as almost to be imperceptible to his attendants, at his apartments in Jesus College, Cambridge, March 25th, 1817.

\* “ Baptismal Faith explained,” a sermon, 4to. 1804.

## No. XLVII.

THE REV. THOMAS COBB, M. A.

PREBENDARY OF CHICHESTER.

THIS Clergyman was born in 1773, and educated at Canterbury, in the public grammar-school of that city, founded by Henry VIII. out of the spoils of the church and monasteries. While there, he acquired some credit by his early proficiency, and was sent hence to Oxford, with the express view of qualifying himself for the church. At Oriel College he first took the degree of B. A. and then proceeded M. A., soon after which he obtained Priest's Orders.

In consequence of a marriage with Miss Wyatt\*, a lady who brought him a large estate, by way of dower, he settled as an ecclesiastic. His first preferment was the vicarage of Sittingborne, presented to him by Dr. Moore, late Archbishop of Canterbury, some time previously to the demise of that very learned and respectable prelate. He afterwards obtained a prebend at Chichester.

On the presentation of the late Colonel James, of Ightham-Court-Lodge, in the county of Kent, he became Rector of Ightham, on the death of the incumbent, in 1791. On this occasion, Mr. Cobb determined to render the Parsonage-house, in which he was destined to reside, not only comfortable but respectable. He accordingly laid out a large sum of money on alterations and additions; after which he enclosed it within a paddock. This place afterwards became the scene of his hospitalities; while his large fortune, at the same time, enabled him to administer liberally to the numerous poor around him, at whose sick beds he was a frequent visitor.

\* On the demise of her uncle, Samuel Wyatt, Esq. she inherited his property, which was very considerable.



As a magistrate for the county, he proved exemplary in point of attendance, as well as minute in investigation ; and he deserves great credit for the zeal with which he lately interposed on the breaking out of a typhus fever in the jail of Maidstone. The steps taken on this occasion, prevented the spread of the contagion.

Mr. Cobb is represented also to have been exemplary in the various duties and relations of life, viz. as a son, brother, husband, and parent. He died in Albemarle-street, whither he had repaired to try the skill of the London physicians, on November 26, 1817, in the 44th year of his age. The disorder that proved fatal, was of so obscure and occult a nature as not only to bid defiance to the talents, but even the *nomenclature* of the medical profession.

## No. XLVIII.

## THOMAS MARCH PHILLIPS, Esq.

OF GARENDON PARK, IN THE COUNTY OF LEICESTER.

MR. March Phillips was born in the year 1746. His father, Thomas, was a merchant of the city of London; his maternal grandfather, Sir Ambrose Phillips, a noted lawyer of his day, was created a king's serjeant by James II. only two years anterior to the abdication of that ill-starred monarch.

In consequence of the bequest of a relative, who left him considerable estates, Mr. Phillips, out of respect to his memory, obtained his Majesty's leave for the *addendum* of March to his name in 1796; and having removed from Dorsetshire to Garendon-House\*, he resided there during a long series of years.

He married his cousin, Miss Susan Lisle, by whom he had ten children, the sons and daughters in equal portions; and in 1801, he served the expensive office of High Sheriff of the

\* We are obliged to the worthy and indefatigable Mr. Nichols, for the following particulars, extracted from Vol. III. page 802, of his "History and Antiquities of the Town and County of Leicester:"—"The present mansion was built on the site of Garendon Abbey, and is supposed to have been erected about 150 years; but considerable alterations were made in it, and the beautiful garden-front was erected, by Ambrose Phillips, Esq. about 1736. He was a most accomplished gentleman, and travelled through France and all parts of Italy; and was so remarkably beautiful in his person, that at Rome and Venice he was called 'The handsome Englishman.'

"He ornamented the park with large plantations, and built the magnificent gateway and the elegant temple and obelisk in the park. The garden front of the present mansion shows the great taste he had in architecture; and was only designed as the second front to a most magnificent house he intended to have built, had he lived to have completed it. He was chosen M. P. for Leicestershire in 1727 and 1734; and dying unmarried, in 1737, was buried at Shepeshed; where an elegant Latin epitaph by Dr. Lisle is inscribed to his memory."

county of Leicester, in which his family had possessed very considerable estates for more than a century and a half. Their pedigree is to be found in Nichols' Leicestershire.

Mr. Phillips not only lived to a good old age, but had the satisfaction to behold his sons honourably employed, at the bar, in the church, and in the navy; while two of his daughters married, the one into a respectable, the other into a noble family; being the wife of the Hon. and Right Reverend Henry Ryder, D. D. Lord Bishop of Gloucester, Dean of Wells, and Vicar of Lutterworth, in the County of Leicester. These events afforded some consolation amidst the afflictions incidental to age and disease.

Having removed, some time since, to Bath, Mr. Thomas March Phillips died in Pulteney-street, in the 71st year of his age, after encountering a long and painful illness, towards the middle of June, 1817.

## No. XLIX.

ELLIS BENT, Esq.

JUDGE-ADVOCATE OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

THIS gentleman, one of the sons of Robert Bent, Esq., was born either in 1784, or 1785. After the usual preliminary education, at an early age, he was sent to the University, where he obtained the degrees of B. A. and M. A. Being destined for the bar, he applied himself with great assiduity to his professional avocations; and by a laborious course of reading, as well as by due attention to practice, qualified himself within the short space of four years after he had become a barrister, for the important office of Judge Advocate.

Having been appointed to exercise his duties in that capacity, within the colony of New South Wales, he repaired thither, and soon formed certain arrangements for the furtherance of justice, within his own department, which greatly contributed to the happiness and prosperity of the infant colony. His singular attention to the duties of his station, is supposed to have shortened his life; for he died in the town of Sidney, at the early age of thirty-two, in the beginning of 1817.

The utility of his plans, which we have already alluded to, has been fully attested by a report of a committee of the House of Commons, to which was referred "the consideration of the state of the Colony of New South Wales," and the excellence of his private character, was demonstrated by the crowd of mournful spectators, who accompanied his remains to the place of interment. On that occasion, his brother, Jeffery Bent, Esq., the judge of the New Court of Equity, performed the melancholy office of chief mourner; while his Excellency the Governor, together with all the officers both civil and military attended, in order to testify their respect.

Mr. Bent has left behind him, a widow and no fewer than five children.

## No. L.

## MISS HENRIETTA RHODES,

A POETESS, NOVEL WRITER, &amp;c.

THIS lady, born in the county of Salop, in the year 1756, was the daughter of Mr. Rhodes of Cann-Hall in the borough of Bridgnorth. At an early period of life, although never successfully wooed herself, yet she wooed the muses, and in the opinion of her friends, with no small degree of good fortune. Some of her neighbours, however, supposed that her verses did not rise above mediocrity; although all concurred in excepting her ballads, a taste for which she had cultivated by reading of the famous collection \*, published by the late Dr. Percy, Bishop of Dromore. She also edited a work written by her nephew; composed several short and fugitive articles for her friends; and printed a novel with a most romantic name, long after she had left off the style and appellation of a spinster; having for some time back been called Mrs. Rhodes.

This lady interposed at the election of members of parliament, for the place of her nativity, in 1784, with a generous warmth, in support of a friend; and died at her house in East Castle Street, Bridgnorth, February 28, 1817, in the sixty-first year of her age.

*List of the Works of the late Miss Rhodes.*

1. Various Poetical Compositions, in early life, some of which were afterwards published.
2. Rosalie, or the Castle of Montalabretti, 4 vols. 12mo. 1811.
3. An account of Stonehenge, 8vo. 1814.
4. Poems and Miscellaneous Essays, published by Subscription, 8vo. 1814.

\* Reliques of ancient English Poetry, 3 vols. 12mo. 1765.

## No. LI.

## THE RIGHT HON. CHARLOTTE

## VISCOUNTESS AND BARONESS NEWCOMEN,

OF MOSSTOWN, IN THE COUNTY OF LONGFORD, IRELAND.

THE family of Newcomen boasts of great antiquity, and it has been asserted by some members of it, that they can trace their pedigree, during a space of seven hundred years, with tolerable exactness. At what precise period they emigrated from England to the sister Kingdom, we know not, but it was most probably during the reign of Elizabeth; for we find them seated at Kenagh, in the county of Longford, in the time of her immediate successor. They were created baronets by James I., in 1623.

In consequence of the failure of heirs-male, in 1789, this title became extinct, but the estates devolved on Charlotte Newcomen, only child and heir of Charles Newcomen, of Carrickglass, Esq., grandson of Sir T. Newcomen, the sixth bart.

This rich heiress, born in or about the year 1755, in due time became the wife of the Right Honourable Sir William Gleadowe, of Killester House in the county of Dublin, Bart. In consequence of this alliance, he assumed the name and arms of Newcomen; was soon after elected a Knight of the Shire, in the Irish Parliament, for the county of Longford; became a privy-counsellor, &c. &c.

By this lady, he had four children, three sons and a daughter. Having died August 21, 1807, he was succeeded by his only son, Sir Thomas, both as a Baronet, and Knight of the Shire.

Lady Gleadowe Newcomen, was promoted to the peerage, in her *own right*, during the life-time of her husband, as Baroness Newcomen, on July 30, 1800; and further advanced to be Viscountess Newcomen, December 4, 1802, with remainder to heirs male. Notwithstanding her large possessions in Ireland, this lady was accustomed to reside frequently in England; and died at Bath, May 16, 1817, at the age of about sixty-two. Her only son, born in 1776, is now Viscount Newcomen.

## No. LII.

MR. SIMON SOLOMON, A JEW.

IT is with the sincerest pleasure, that we now have an opportunity of giving some account of a son of Israel, who in every point of view, deserves commemoration and applause.

Mr. Simon Solomon, although long settled in England, was not a native of this country, having been born in that portion of Poland, seized on by Frederic the Great, as the spoil of the Prussian eagle. He was born at Lissau, in 1748, and appears to have acquired, either by means of others, or himself, a learned education. Indeed, in that portion of Europe, the Jews are not a despised race, as both here and in France; for they are settled in clusters, inhabit villages and towns, and are treated by the government with lenity and respect.

Among the descendants of Abraham, a proficiency in the Hebrew, accompanied with a taste for rabbinical learning, is considered as *classical*; to these, the subject of this memoir superadded the German and French languages, doubtless, acquired by him, during the wanderings of his early youth.

A taste for practical chemistry became the means of obtaining bread, not only for himself and his family, but also for such of the wretched of his own, and of every other nation, as appeared deserving of commiseration. His knowledge of the nature and composition of colours enabled him to become what is technically termed a *paper-stainer*, and he excelled, not in the common, but in the *fancy* line.

The following account of him is drawn up, with great liberality, by a gentleman of a different faith:

“ From persevering habits, added to a truly benevolent heart, he was not only able to provide for a large family, and to contribute to the necessities of the Jewish community, of which

he was a conscientious member, but to indulge in what he also conceived his duty, by relieving the wants of his Christian neighbours, in such a manner as to insure the admiration and esteem of all who knew him. Exclusive of his private charities, he was one of the first founders of the Clerkenwell Philanthropic Society, to which himself and some of his family contributed; he was therefore chosen, with several other persons, during the late distressing winter, to collect subscriptions for the poor, and afterwards to distribute the amount in coals, bread, potatoes, &c. Precluded by his religion, even from taking refreshments during this time, he was nevertheless, so ardent and cheerful in the performance of these duties, that the poor in his presence, always seemed to forget their poverty; so that, like Job, the blessing of those that were 'ready to perish,' often came upon him, and he has literally made 'the widow's heart sing for joy.'

"Next to his sudden demise, nothing seemed to excite the regret of his Christian neighbours, more than the hasty interment of his remains, which, according to the Mosaical law, must take place before the sun can set twice upon them. Yet, though strictly Jewish in his belief, and always averse to what he thought was mis-named "the Conversion of the Jews;" he had not the least objection to an attendance upon Christian worship for the sake of doing good; and among his own weekly pensioners, he had several persons of both these persuasions.

"Consistently with this liberality, the writer of this article has to acknowledge the many facilities cordially afforded him by the deceased, in his humble attempts to remove the prejudices excited against a long injured and aspersed people, whose rights, after all that has been said or done by other powers, England has been the first to appreciate and secure, by an equitable administration of the ægis of its laws. And here it may be safely asserted, that no description of people whatever, out of the pale of our ecclesiastical establishment, feel the obligation more warmly, than the reflecting part of the Hebrew nation, to their rulers. The remains of Mr.



Solomon, attended by his family, the heads of his synagogue, the children educated in the Jewish hospital, and a number of Christians, were deposited in the burial-ground near Ducking-pond-row, on the 19th Sept., with peculiar marks of respect. Mr. Solomon was auditor to the synagogue of which he was a member, and an acting director of the hospital in Mile-End road. He has left four sons, and a daughter, whose anonymous but sprightly effusions have contributed to enhance the interest of several of our periodical publications. She also published an animated letter to the Rev. Mr. C. Frey, on the subject of his conduct with respect to Jewish converts by the London Society, to which he promised a reply; but this, it seems, he wanted either time or ability to perform, before he was recently compelled to leave England."

Mr. Solomon, died in the 69th year of his age, leaving behind him the character of a most ingenious artist; a most benevolent man; and a most excellent husband, father, and friend. In short, he would have reflected honour on any sect or nation: for he discharged all his duties with a degree of zeal, patience, and propriety, that could alone have originated in a sound judgment, and good heart.

## No. LIII.

SIR WILLIAM-PIERCE-ASHE A'COURT, BART.

LATE M. P. FOR HEYTESBURY.

THE name of A'Court, indicates a foreign extraction, while the surnames of Pierce and Ashe, proceed from intermarriages with females of the same appellation. The family itself appears to have been settled for many years at Roddon, a hamlet situate in the hundred of Frome, in Somersetshire.

Mr. Pierce A'Court, married Elizabeth, daughter of William Ashe of Heytesbury, in Wilts, and M. P. for that borough, in consequence of which, his descendants have become joint lords of the manor with the Dukes of Marlborough; whence has arisen a certain degree of patronage of a very delicate but efficient nature.

General William Ashe A'Court, was the first to profit by this, and also to assume the name of his uncle, in pursuance of a clause in his will; he also first exercised the influence just alluded to, having been returned one of the members for the borough mentioned above.

Sir William Pierce Ashe, his only son, was born in 1747. He obtained a great accession to his patrimonial fortune, in right of his mother, Annabella, the heiress of Thomas Vernon, of Twickenham Park, in the county of Middlesex, Esq. By his first wife Catharine, daughter of Lieut.-Col. Bradford, there was no issue; but by his second, Letitia, the daughter of Henry Wyndham, of Salisbury, Esq., he had seven children; two sons and five daughters.

This gentleman, early in life, devoted himself to the military profession; and soon after his first marriage obtained a command in the Wiltshire militia, in one of the battalions of which

he afterwards rose to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. On the demise of his father, he also was nominated M. P. for Heytesbury, and re-elected at three different dissolutions of parliament. On June 25, he obtained the Baronetcy for his family; and lived to see one of his sons employed in the diplomatic line; while another obtained a company in the army.

Sir William died at Heytesbury-house, his usual place of abode, July 27, 1817, in his seventieth year. He is succeeded in his title and a large portion of his extensive estates by William A'Court, Esq. (now Sir William) who, for some time, resided at Palermo, in Sicily, in the character of Envoy Extraordinary.

## No. LIV.

## THE COUNTESS DOWAGER OF UXBRIDGE.

**T**HIS lady was born in 1742, and, until her marriage, was known by the appellation of Miss Jane Champigne, being the daughter of the Rev. Arthur Champigne\*, Dean of Clonmacnoise, in the kingdom of Ireland. In consequence of being descended from the Earls of Granard, to one of whom she was grand-daughter, this lady was allied to the noble families of Moira, Mornington, &c., and being very handsome, she was greatly admired by the late Earl of Uxbridge, to whom she was married April 11, 1767.

The Countess-Dowager, who preserved the appearance of beauty, even amidst the ruins of old age, lived to see her husband die, and her surviving children grown up; she also beheld her eldest son created Marquis of Anglesea, on account of his gallantry at Waterloo, where he lost a leg. Her Ladyship died at her house in Bolton-row, in 1817, in the 75th year of her age.

\* Dean Champigne was the son of Major (Josias) Champigne of Port-Arlington, in Ireland, who married Jane, eldest daughter of the Right Hon. Arthur Forbes, second Earl of Granard.

## No. LV.

## ALEXANDER MONRO, M. D. AND F. R. S.

OF EDINBURGH ; PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE IN THAT UNIVERSITY,  
AND FELLOW OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS.

THIS gentleman was the son of that great anatomist, Dr. Alexander Monro, born in Scotland, in 1697. He studied, for some time, at Leyden, and became the friend of Boerhaave; after which he returned to the capital of his native country, and delivered lectures there. His zeal, talents, and discoveries, soon rendered Edinburgh a school for \* anatomy; and although *materials* for dissection are there less frequently obtained than in London, yet he attained no common degree of celebrity, in consequence of his scientific knowledge and pursuits.

His son Alexander was born in 1732, and lived to be considered the Nestor of northern physicians. Treading in the footsteps of his father, who died in 1767, he also became an eminent professor, and in 1781 collected and published all his works. His own professional labours were not inconsiderable, as may be seen from the following list :

1. Observations on the Structure and Functions of the Nervous System, 1783, fol.
2. The Structure and Physiology of Fishes, 1785, fol.
3. A Description of all the Bursæ Mucosæ of the Human Body, 1788, 4to.
4. Experiments on the Nervous System with Opium and Metalline substances, 1793, 4to.

\* He penned the Anatomical Class, in the University of Edinburgh.

5. Three Treatises on the Brain, the Eye, and the Ear, 1797, 4to.

6. Observations on Crural Hernia, with a general account of the other varieties of that complaint, 1803, 8vo.

7. The Morbid Anatomy, of the Gullet, the Stomach, and the Intestines, 1812, 8vo.

8. Outlines of the Anatomy of the Human Body, 1813, 4 vols. 8vo.

9. Observations on the Thoracic Duct, 1814, 4to.

Dr. Monro, after outliving all his contemporaries, died Oct. 2, 1817, in the 85th year of his age.

## No. LVI.

MR. WILLIAM RUSSEL,

OF BRANCEPATH-CASTLE, IN THE COUNTY-PALATINE OF DURHAM.

IT is impossible to contemplate such a man as this was without a mixture of love and veneration. Born in the county-palatine of Durham, in the year 1734-5, happily for the interests of humanity, he possessed a considerable fortune early in life, and lived long enough to administer it, as if he had been the steward of the public rather than the owner.

This gentleman, among many other acts of beneficence, founded and endowed an hospital in his native county, for aged persons of both sexes; to which he annexed a school for the education of the young. During the late distresses, arising out of a scanty harvest, as well as a variety of other concurring causes, he actually gave orders for the construction of places of reception for the poor, needy, and forlorn. Being an owner of extensive collieries below, as well as large estates above ground, he wisely contrived to excite the industry of the young and middle aged, by finding them constant employment.

Nor was he deficient in his duties as a patriot and citizen. In 1795, he contributed alike by his purse, his presence, and his influence, to the raising of a large body of infantry within the county-palatine, while at a more recent period, he actually collected and equipped a corps of sharp shooters, who in case of an invasion of the coal-district, would have proved essentially serviceable against the common enemy.

This gentleman united his fate to that of Miss Millbanke, daughter to an Admiral of the same name, who survives him,

and lived to a patriarchal age. In consequence of this, he saw all his children happily settled in life; for of his two daughters, one is the lady of Lieut.-General Sir Gordon Drummond, G. C. B. and the other of Lieut.-Col. Bunbury, brother to Sir Charles Bunbury, Bart., while he beheld his only son, Matthew, represent Saltash several times in Parliament, and who, after marrying Miss Tennison, settled at Hardwicke-house, near Durham, the estate around which he had purchased from the late Sir Henry Vane Tempest, Bart.

Mr. Russel died at Brancepath Castle, in the county of Durham, at the good old age of eighty-three, leaving behind him the character of a man, who to many amiable qualities, superadded a pure benevolence and truly disinterested public spirit.



## No. LVII.

THE REV. JOHN LYON, B.A. F.L.S. AND F.S.A.

MR. Lyon was born September 1, 1734; but the early part of his life is not exactly known, as he outlived all, or nearly all, his contemporaries, both at school and college, and beheld no fewer than three if not four generations of the burghesses of Dover.

We are well aware, however, that he was educated at an English University, and that he obtained a degree of Bachelor of Arts there, about the middle of the last century. In 1772, Mr. Lyon was inducted into the living of St. Mary the Virgin, at Dover, which he retained during a period but little distant from half a century.

At an early epoch of his life, this clergyman appears to have imbibed and cultivated a taste for natural history. Of plants, the heights in the immediate vicinity of his own parish church, presented him with an ample store; he also obtained a pretty good collection of insects, shells, and minerals, of all which he was very fond. But he still more prized his books: for being an author himself, these served, in some measure, not only as the tools and instruments of his occupation, but also for his recreation and instruction.

When Dr. Franklin at once aroused and astonished the world by his electrical discoveries, Mr. Lyon was one of the first to apply the whole bent of his mind to this subject. He himself accordingly obtained an *apparatus*, and engaged in a long course of experiments. On this occasion, the results do not appear to have been exactly the same with those deduced by the celebrated American; he accordingly broached certain *heterodox* opinions on this subject. He made many pertinent remarks,

however, on the leading doctrines of the Franklinian system, and boldly maintained, by means of "proofs" and "further proofs," that glass is permeable to the electrical effluvia; but he never asserted, like one of his cotemporaries, that "sharp conductors were dangerous," and "blunt ones," the only species that ought to be used.

His long residence and numerous connections at Dover afforded the best opportunities for collecting materials for its history; to which he annexed an account of the Cinque Ports, but this, both on account of its size and price never became a popular work.

The French Revolution appeared to this divine, to be a new Pandora's box, stored with innumerable evils. He was, therefore, a great enemy, not only to any alterations in the government of that country, but to all those that countenanced the idea of a reform in this. Accordingly, at a critical period, he composed, printed, and disseminated the following anonymous hand-bill, which was sent, not only to every house in his own parish, but through all the adjoining ones.

*"To the People of England.*

"Is it not wonderful that any inhabitants of this land should submit to be so far directed by our old enemies the French, as to attempt to throw their own country into confusion, and give our ever restless and ambitious neighbours that opportunity of enslaving us which they have hitherto sought for in vain?

"For shame, Englishmen! Be but true to yourselves; support your King and your Constitution, and ye will have the command of the world!"

Mr. Lyon was a modest unassuming man, inoffensive in his manners, peculiar in his habits, and so addicted to local arrangements, that he was accustomed to walk daily, while in health, on the same spot and at the same hour, during the last forty years. On the whole, as he lived like a recluse, he might be said to have worn life gradually away, rather than to have enjoyed it. He died in the third year after he had become an

octogennarian, and was buried in the church-yard of St. Nicholas, in the Isle of Thanet. The following appropriate epitaph, written by one of his friends, has been since inscribed on an humble stone, over his grave: —

Sacred to the memory of  
 The Rev. JOHN LYON, B. A. F. L. S., &c.  
 nearly forty-five years Minister of  
 St. Mary the Virgin at Dover,  
 in the County of Kent.  
 He commenced his pilgrimage through  
 this world in search of a better, Sept. 1. 1734,  
 and closed it without reproach,  
 June 30, 1817.  
 Reader!  
 If distinguished by virtues or acquirements,  
 go thou and learn  
 to imitate his Humility.

*The following is a List of the Works of the late Rev. John Lyon.*

1. Experiments and Observations on Electricity, 4to. 1780.
2. Farther Proofs that Glass is permeable by the Electric Effluvia, 4to. 1781.
3. Remarks on the leading Proofs offered in favour of the Franklinian System of Electricity, 8vo. 1791.
4. An Account of several new and interesting *phenomena*, discoveries in examining the bodies of a man and four horses, killed by lightning near Dover, 8vo. 1796.
5. History of Dover, with a short Account of the Cinque Ports, 1 vol. 8vo. 1813.

## No. LVIII.

THE RIGHT HON. HUGH EARL OF EGLINTOUN, K.T.

BARON MONTGOMERY, ANDROSSAN, SKELMORLIE, AND CORTAFIELD, IN THE COUNTY OF AYR; LORD-LIEUTENANT OF THE SAID COUNTY; HEREDITARY SHERIFF OF RENFREW, BAILIFF OF CUNNINGHAM, AND A COUNSELLOR OF STATE TO HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES IN SCOTLAND.

“ GARDEZ BIEN.” — *Mot.*

THIS family is undoubtedly of French, and most probably of Norman extraction. A Roger de Montgomerie, being related to Duke William, was placed in a high and confidential post at the battle of Hastings, having commanded the first line of the Conqueror's army which engaged on that fatal day, which, for a time, annihilated Saxon liberty, and introduced in its stead all the most rigorous provisions of the feudal system. The event just alluded to, of course entitled him and his followers to large possessions in England, which they seem, however, in the sequel, either to have abandoned or forfeited.

Philip de Montgomerie, repairing to Scotland during the reign of Henry I., obtained a grant of lands in Renfrewshire, and appears to have settled there. His gallant descendant, Sir John Montgomerie, or Montgomery, of Egglestone, distinguished himself greatly during the wars of the Borders. It was he who, in 1388, at the battle of Otterburn, took prisoner the valiant Percy, surnamed “ Hotspur,” with his own hand, after he had killed the Earl of Douglas, and mortally wounded the Earl of Moray. For the ransom of this celebrated warrior he exacted the building of the castle of Punnvow, in the lordship of Eggleston.

Another member of this family having married the daughter and heir of Sir Hugh Eglington, by Giles, daughter of

Walter, Lord Steward of Scotland, and sister to King Robert II., the baronies of Eglintoun and Androssan were thus brought into the family as her portion. From this alliance proceeded Hugh, who was created Earl of Eglintoun by Queen Mary; and one of his immediate descendants, who bore the same name\* and title, was shot a few years since by Duncan Campbell, an exciseman, in consequence of a rash, illegal, and arbitrary act, against a man who stood on his defence, and would not be disarmed.

Hugh Earl of Montgomery, of whom we are now to treat, was born about the year 1748. On the demise of Archibald, the eleventh Earl, in 1796, he succeeded to all his titles, and most of the family estates. Before this period, he was known only as Mr. Montgomery of Coylesfield; and he afterwards inherited the honours, &c., in consequence of his descent from the Hon. Colonel James Montgomery, fourth son of Alexander, sixth Earl of Eglintoun.

Long before the title had devolved on him, he married his cousin Eleanora Hamilton, by whom he had Lord Montgomery, who became a Major-General in the army.

In 1806, His Lordship was created a peer of the united kingdom, by the style and title of Baron Androssan. He appears to have been a friend to the claims of the Catholics, having voted for going into a committee to consider of the same.

The Earl died at Eglintoun Castle, in Scotland, in the month of June, 1817, when he had attained about 70 years of age. His grandson, by an intermarriage between the late Lord Montgomery and Mary, daughter of Archibald, the eleventh Earl, by his Countess, (formerly Miss Twisden,) succeeds to his titles and estates.

\* Hugh, the tenth Earl.

## No. LIX.

R. G. HOGAN, Esq., D.C.L.

LATE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE COLONY OF SIERRA LEONE.

MR. Hogan was born in the north of Ireland, in 1774, and not only received a liberal education, but obtained the highest honours that an university can bestow. His family had been long settled at Rathcormick in the county of Cork, and while his brother chose the profession of arms, he addicted himself to the more profitable career of the law.

His character, conduct, and excellent talents soon obtained notice; and if we are not greatly mistaken, he filled an inferior station in the colony of Sierra Leone, before he presided as Chief Justice.

To that post, at the especial request of those who wish to vindicate, not only England, but human nature itself, from the indelible reproach annexed to the slave trade, was annexed an office of a very different kind; but entirely compatible with the former. This was the Judge of the Vice-Admiralty court, in which capacity he was to decide, in the first instance, as to the capture of vessels engaged in that nefarious traffic.

No one better fitted for such a station could have been chosen at the present moment, for he was scrupulously and conscientiously hostile to the enormities accompanying slavery of all kinds and degrees.

On this occasion, he succeeded Robert Thorpe, Esq. LL. D. in both situations, and notwithstanding the quarrel of the latter gentleman with the African Institution\*, there can be no doubt but that his decisions, during the time he presided in the

\* See a letter to W. Wilberforce, Esq., 8vo. 1815, with the reply and rejoinder.

Vice-Admiralty Court, were highly friendly to the best interests of humanity.

While Mr. Hogan was fulfilling the duties of his station with exemplary zeal, fortitude, and integrity; he was suddenly cut off by the diseases incident to a pestilential climate, in the forty-second year of his age, after he had exercised his functions but a few short months.

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## No. LX.

THE RIGHT HON.

JOHN PRENDERGAST, VISCOUNT GORT,

OF THE KINGDOM OF IRELAND; BARON KILTARTON; A GOVERNOR  
OF THE COUNTY; CHAMBERLAIN FOR THE CITY OF LIMERICK;  
AND COLONEL OF THE MILITIA.

“VINCIT VERITAS.”—*Mot.*

THE Smyths are supposed to have settled in Ireland during the reign of Charles I., a period at which a number of respectable English families were induced to repair thither, for the purpose of effecting a permanent establishment, both for themselves and their posterity. They afterwards enriched their descendants, or at least, greatly added to their original fortunes by means of church leases. \*

Mr. Smyth was born in 1741. In consequence of his property in the immediate vicinity, he possessed influence sufficient to represent the city of Limerick in Parliament, of which one of his ancestors had been bishop in 1695, and he

\* William Smyth was consecrated Bishop of Killala in 1691, and died Bishop of Kilmore in 1699. Thomas another branch of this same family, was Bishop of Limerick; Edward was Bishop of Down, and Arthur, Archbishop of Dublin and Primate of Ireland.

also became Chamberlain to the corporation. His \* nephew and successor, at the same time, was nominated Colonel of the militia, raised there in 1797, at the head of which he distinguished himself greatly during the unhappy disturbances afterwards prevalent in that country; and finally became M. P. also for the same place.

In 1810, Mr. John Prendergast Smyth was created Baron Kiltarton; and during the regency was advanced to the dignity of Viscount Gort. He possessed Lough-Cooter castle, and a considerable estate adjoining in Galway, but he died at Gort in the same county, May 22, 1817, in the seventy-sixth year of his age.

In consequence of this event, his titles and estates devolve on the Right Honourable Charles Vereker, to whom they were granted in remainder.

\* Colonel Charles Vereker first sat in the Irish House of Commons in 1790, and became a Lord of the Treasury, and then a Privy Counsellor. In 1798, he exhibited great skill and bravery in an attack on the French troops, who had been joined by the insurgents; and the motto of "Coloony" has been added to his arms by way of commemorating both the place and the exploit.



PART II.  
NEGLECTED BIOGRAPHY;

WITH  
ORIGINAL LETTERS, PAPERS, &c.

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No. I.

SIR JAMES MACDONALD, BART.  
OF SLATE IN THE ISLE OF SKY,  
COMMONLY CALLED "THE SCOTTISH MARCELLUS."

THE Macdonalds of Slate, one of whom has been ennobled in the person of the late Lord Macdonald \*, in consequence of a patent from his present Majesty, creating him an Irish Baron, are allowed to be a very ancient, and at one period, were a very powerful family. Douglas, and Walter Scott, have both given authentic testimony to this fact; and it appears from them, that there existed many feuds, equally sanguinary and ridiculous,

\* This was Sir Alexander Macdonald, who obtained a patent as a peer of Ireland, by the title of Lord Macdonald of Slate, July 17, 1776; and died September 12, 1795. He was the second son of Sir James Macdonald of Oronsay, the sixth baronet of this house; and succeeded to the title on the demise of his eldest brother, the illustrious Sir James, who is the subject of this brief memoir.

The Right Honourable Sir Archibald Macdonald, Bart.; the third son, was a posthumous child, not being born until 1747. He is still alive, and after filling the high offices of Solicitor, and Attorney-General, was appointed Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer in 1793. He has lately retired from the bench.

about the delicate point of *precedency*, among the different branches of this warlike race. As usual, however, the weight of property finally preponderated, and the "lairds of Slate," having the largest share of territory, it of course followed, that they alone, in process of time, began to be considered as the legitimate chieftains.

If we are to credit tradition, they are of Norwegian, not of Caledonian race, being descended from *Somerland Thane of Argyll*, who is said to have acquired the Western Islands, by his marriage with Elfrica, or Rachel, daughter of Olaus, the *swarthy*, king of Man. Certain it is, that this Toparch, or *roitelet*, who afterwards assumed the pompous denomination of king of the Isles, invaded Scotland about the year 1164; but being slain in the attempt, and his descendants proving utterly incapable of even supporting their own independence, they were at last obliged to acknowledge themselves subjects to the monarch who then swayed the Scottish sceptre.

It appears, that Angus, who modestly termed himself, only "Lord of the Isles," afforded an hospitable asylum in his castle of Dunaverty, to the gallant Robert Bruce, during his adversity. A disputed succession having afterwards ensued, in consequence of attaint for treason, James V. refused to grant possession to the head of such a numerous, warlike, and "troublesome" clan; but Donald Gorme Macdonald, was reinstated by Queen Mary, in the lands of Slate; and one of his successors was created a baronet of Nova Scotia, by Charles I. This circumstance doubtless contributed to attach the family to the royal cause; and it accordingly took part against the English parliament.

Sir Donald, the fourth baronet, having unadvisedly engaged in the rebellion of 1715, was attainted; but Sir Alexander Macdonald of Slate, refusing to join the grandson of James II., in 1745, in consequence of the influence, and intervention of the Lord President Forbes, was thus prevented from sharing in the ruin, that attached to the devoted followers of the House of Stuart. It is of his immediate descendant we now propose to treat.

Sir James, the eldest son of Sir Alexander Macdonald, just mentioned, by Lady Margaret Montgomery, was born in 1741. From his infancy, he discovered a portion of genius and abilities, scarcely ever evinced before at the same early period of life. Like Marcellus, he was only produced, however, for a moment to the eye of admiration; and like Crichton, unhappily but few authentic traces are left of his progress and improvement.\*

After receiving the rudiments of education at home, he exhibited an earnest desire to repair to England, for the purpose of completing his studies.

The father of Sir James having died in 1746, his mother, Lady Margaret Macdonald, at length complied with his most earnest solicitations, and he was accordingly sent to Eton. So rapid had been his progress, and so precocious was his genius, that Dr. Barnard, in a very short time, actually placed him at the head of his class.† His conduct too, proved so exemplary,

\* "He was," says Mrs. Elizabeth Carter, "one of the most extraordinary young men I ever knew. He studied very hard, was a scholar and a mathematician; and yet at twenty I have heard him talk with a knowledge of the world, which one would not have expected to hear, but from the experience of age."

"He had great and noble schemes for the civilization and improvement of his own country; and appeared upon the whole to be one of those superior spirits which seemed formed to show how far the powers of humanity can extend." See *Pennington's Life of Mrs. Carter*, vol. ii. p. 168.

† "I recollect one striking instance of the acuteness and spirit of Dr. Barnard. When the late Sir James Macdonald arrived at Eton, he had no connexion to recommend him; and he could not make a verse, that is, he wanted a point indispensable with us, to a certain rank in our system. But this wonderful boy, having satisfied the master that he was an admirable scholar and possessed of genius, was at once placed at the head of a remove, or form; and Barnard said, 'Boys, I am going to put over your heads a boy who cannot write a verse, and I do not care whether he ever will be a poet or no; but I will trust him in your hands; for I know my boys, and how generous they are to merit!'

"Here by the way, to vindicate the singularity, it was not only in general sanctioned by our implicit assent, but it was terminated by a singular feature in the character of this boy, himself. He acquired the rules of Latin verse; tried his powers; and perceiving that he could not rise above his rivals in Virgil, Ovid, or the Lyrics of Horace, he took up the *sermoni propriæ* and there overshadowed all his competitors. To give you a faint conception of his powers in that line, much above those of a boy, I will quote a passage which describes the hammer of an auctioneer, with a mock sublimity which turns Horace into Virgil:

at the same time, that he is said never to have been once punished, or even reprehended. A pane of glass belonging to the window of one of the inhabitants, happening to be broken, when he was present, all the boys then on the spot were doomed to suffer ; but Mr. Combe, a writer of some celebrity, who is still alive, although absent and consequently excluded from the *proscription*, generously stepped forward and took the guilt as well as the infliction, upon himself.

Of his early proficiency the following is a specimen of what he was enabled to achieve, when only in the seventeenth year of his age.

*Ad Fredericum Secundum Prussiæ Regem.*

(A. D. 1758.)

“ Ergo insolenti sanguine nobilem  
 Vindex subactis abdidit hostibus,  
 Læsæque libertatis ultor  
 Deposuit Fredericus ensem.  
 At non inertī Principis otio  
 Languescit ardor ; mox vehementior  
 Erumpet, adversasque turmas  
 Austriadum graviore casu  
 Contundet Heros. Sic ubi murmura  
 Cessant parumper, quā gemit horridum  
 Ætnæa rupes, aut Vesevi  
 Culmina flammivomi colonos  
 Vicina terrent ; jam violentior  
 Motus reffectis viribus ingruit,  
 Et pestis improvisa latè  
 Depositum ingeminat furorem.

---

“ *Jam Jamque cadit, celerique recursu,  
 Erigitur lapsum, retrahens, perque acra nutat.*”

was ever thing any more picturesque ?

“ This prodigy, the young *Marcellus* of his day, at the University and abroad, gave the world assurance of pre-eminent gifts and powers when death took him from us.”

LIT. ANEC. Vol. VIII.

Tu doctus audis, nec tibi simplicem  
 Nectit coronam Pallas; at impiæ  
 Per bella quam sensere turmæ,  
 Et calami decuere dextram.  
 Pubes quid acris, te duce, gesserit,  
 Quid ipse victor, tu spolia inclyta  
 Dignè, triumphatumque Gallum, et  
 Saxonidis data jura dices.  
 Nec te moretur Pieridum cohors,  
 Ad arma Mavors si vocet integrum;  
 I, Victor ingens, i, triumphis  
 Perge novis decorare fastos."

Here follows a sample of what he accomplished at a little later period of his life:

*Virga Aurea.*

(A. D. 1765.)

"Apta neci, vitæque potens, somnique ministra  
 Dicitur aligeri virga fuisse Dei:  
 Nec malè (majestas ne desit regia) versu  
 Sceptringerum pinxit quisque poeta Jovem.  
 Terrigenas sceptro victor fudisse Gigantas  
 Fertur, et in Siculis intumulâsse jugis.  
 A Jove nutriti gestant Jovis arma; tyrannis  
 Imponunt facilem regia sceptrâ notam.  
 Ænean miræ fretum tutamine virgæ  
 Duxit ad Elysias casta Sibylla domos:  
 Visâ fronde Charon cymbam venientibus offert,  
 Et fera tergemini concidit ira canis.  
 Ferre pedum gestit pastor, quo claudit ovile,  
 Gramineoque vagas monte coerces oves.  
 Fulcit utrumque latus, teretique innixa bacillo  
 Invalidum firmat tarda senecta gradus.  
 Utiliter baculum mutilatos sustinet artus,  
 Ne careat facili debilis Iruis ope.  
 Fida comes sacris adhibetur virga, silentes  
 Versat ubi magico cespice saga doles.

Nec minor est hodie venerandæ gratia virgæ,  
Illa decet doctam, pondus et arma, manum.  
Suggerit illa rudi numeros et dulcia vati  
Carmina, vimineâ, musa juvatur ope.  
Nuda licet, foliis orbata, nec ardua jactet  
Brachia, nec multam dives inauret humum ;  
Sed tamen hanc Pallas, Musæque tuentur : Apollo  
Creditur huic lauros posthabuisse suas.  
Betula, dulce decus nemoris, reginaque silvæ  
Usque feras domino vimina digna tuo."

Sir James appears to have remained at Eton for several years. He then set out on his travels, and was received every where, by the learned, with that distinction so justly due to his unrivalled talents. At Rome, in particular, great honours were paid him, by several of the Cardinals ; and he died in that city in 1766, when only 25 years old ! His remains were accompanied by all the English, Scotch, and Irish, then resident in that part of Italy ; and it is greatly to be lamented that the materials are so scanty for the life of a youth, who in person, learning, and talents, seems to have realised all the marvellous accomplishments attributed to his countryman, " the admirable Crichton !"

## No. II.

THE VERY REV. WILLIAM VINCENT, D.D.

LATE DEAN OF WESTMINSTER.

OF this respectable divine and eminent scholar, a copious memoir has been already given in Vol. I. p. 124. It is with great pleasure that the Editor now subjoins the inscription on the monument recently erected to his memory in Westminster-Abbey : —

Hic requiescit  
 Quod mortale est  
 GULIELMI VINCENT ;  
 Qui puer  
 Sub domûs hujusce penetralibus  
 Enutritus ;  
 Mox  
 Post studia Academica confecta  
 Unde obiit reversus,  
 Atque ex uno Præceptorum gradu  
 Summum adeptus,  
 Decanatu tandem hujusce Ecclesiæ  
 (Quam unico delixit)  
 Decoratus est.  
*Qualis fuerit vitâ, studiis, moribus :*  
*Lapis sepulchralis taceat.*  
 Ortus ex honesta stirpe Vincentiorum  
 De Shepy, in agro Leicestriensi,  
 Natus Londini Novembris secundo 1739,  
 Denatus Decembris 21mo  
 1815.

Copy of an original and very interesting letter from Dr. Vincent, in London, to Alexander Henderson, Esq., of Edinburgh, with whom he kept up a long and uninterrupted correspondence during some years.

“ Dear Sir,

“ I should not get through ten books on the progress of virtue in ten months, — but wherever I have opened the book, I find the numbers flowing, and the images agreeable. \*

\* \* \* \* \*  
 \* \* \* \* \* My own taste in regard to didactic poems is, I suppose, vicious, — for, excepting the Georgics of Virgil, I never got through a whole poem of this sort in my life. \* \* \* \* \*

\* \* \* \* \*

“ Sermons, I never published any but such as I was under the necessity of printing for the publick occasions on which they were preached, or one or two, from some censure of their contents which I thought it right to repel. With a powerful voice, a fluent delivery, and a good manner, several have pleased an audience; but though I had bestowed all the pains on them that the subjects deserved, and all the divinity I was master of, — yet when I came to read other men’s sermons on the same subjects, I have, in many instances, been so conscious of my inferiority, that I never ventured to publish a volume.

“ In short, I believe my credit can only exist as a geographer, and that of a peculiar turn, and whether *soracte* is *candida* or *candidum*, I will not allow you to triumph over my lapse. I fear many may occur, but, as times go, the work is a good one. Believe me,

with much respect,

your most obedient

and faithful Servant,

W. VINCENT.”

“ Deanery,  
 March 6, 1812.”



## No. III.

T. B. HOWELL, Esq.

BARRISTER AT LAW, AND EDITOR OF THE STATE TRIALS, &amp;c.

*Accompanied by an Original Letter.*

MR. HOWELL was born about the year 1766. His father was a gentleman of competent estate, which he did not, however, improve by a speculation in houses, burgage-tenures, &c. to obtain a certain degree of influence in a borough in his own immediate neighbourhood, for the purpose of acquiring a permanent seat for his family in parliament.

His son, Mr. T. B. Howell, was bred a gentleman-commoner, at Oxford, and having entered himself of Lincoln's Inn, afterwards resided in chambers there, which happened to be next to those of the late Mr. Perceval. These gentlemen lived in great intimacy together, and their friendship never suffered any eclipse, although their political opinions were entirely different. Indeed, if the subject of this brief memoir could have accommodated himself to existing circumstances, there can be no doubt, but all the honours of the profession would have been open to him: but his principles were fixed, and his integrity inflexible.

Having married Miss Long, one of the co-heirs of the barony of Zouch, he settled in Gloucestershire, was in the commission of the peace during many years, for that county, and offered himself, at one period, as a candidate for the city. He afterwards returned to London, and that place became his chief residence during the remainder of a life which was terminated in 1817, in the 51st or 52d year of his age. His widow still survives him, and by this lady he has had several

children; particularly a son, who promises to distinguish himself as a barrister.

Mr. Howell did not practise much as a counsel, but was always deemed an able and judicious lawyer. He was induced of late years to superintend the new edition of the State Trials; and it is allowed by all good judges, that he has enriched that work with many curious and valuable additions.

Here follows the copy of an original letter from T. B. Howell, Esq., to Francis Hargrave, Esq., K. C. and Recorder of Liverpool.

“ Northumberland-Street (London).

“ Dear Sir,

June 30th, 1810.

“ I am extremely gratified by the information, that your *Jurisconsult Exercitations* are to be published; and partaking of that lively interest concerning them which might be felt by every friend to the promotion of legal knowledge, and the dissemination of the best and soundest constitutional doctrines; I entreat of you to pardon the liberty which I take in suggesting my hope, that they will be accompanied by an Index.

“ In the consideration of great questions, the vast copiousness of your learning, the profundity of your reflection, the pregnancy of your imagination, and the *tact* of your intuitive sagacity, enable you at once to discover and to apply, not only the most minute features of resemblance, and the most delicate connections of analogy, but at the same time the most remote and subtle topics which operate, or may be supposed to operate, in contraversion of such analogy. In short, the cogency of your mind presses into the service of truth whatever is capable of enforcing conviction. Hence it happens, that your disquisitions, besides exhausting the learning, ingenuity, and eloquence applicable immediately to their respective subjects, afford most interesting and valuable illustration to a variety of dependant propositions, and to a number of law principles, and of law cases, in which those propositions are involved, or with which they are connected. Much, there-

fore, is to be found of most important matter in every page of your disquisitions, to which the title can give no direction or intimation to any person who does not possess (and who does possess?) your comprehensive mind, and the faculty of exercising it as you have done.

“ Without an Index, therefore, your most valuable work will, as it appears to me, be much less useful than it would be with the aid of that mechanical supplement.

“ I know not how sufficiently to excuse myself for the liberty I have thus taken. Indeed, unless you will accept my anxiety for the *effect* of your work, I can only allege your civilities to me: and I fear I make, by this intrusion, but a sorry return for them. I trust, however, you do me the justice to be assured, that I am, dear Sir,

Your very obliged,

and respectful Servant,

T. B. HOWELL.”

No. IV.

REV. CHARLES BURNEY, D.D. LL.D. F.R. AND A.S.  
&c. &c.

**T**HE death of this respectable divine, and very eminent scholar, has produced no small degree of grief and sorrow, on the part of all those connected with the republic of letters, of which he was an ornament.

[In consequence of this melancholy incident having occurred at the close of the preceding year, it was impossible to compose a memoir of him, for the present volume; but one shall certainly appear in the next.]

PART III.

ANALYSIS

OF

RECENT BIOGRAPHICAL WORKS.

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No. I.

MEMOIRS OF THE PRIVATE AND PUBLIC LIFE OF WILLIAM  
PENN. — BY THOMAS CLARKSON, M. A. — 2 vols. 8vo.

THIS life of a celebrated character, a famous author, an acute theologian, and a distinguished legislator, is written by a man entitled, also, to respect and applause. It was the latter who so ably and disinterestedly advocated the rights of humanity, on the question relative to negro slavery; and it is he, who now portrays the life, and opinions, and adventures of a person, unexampled in the annals of modern times.

The Penns appear to have been seated, four or five centuries ago, at a village of the same name, in the hundred of Burnham, Buckinghamshire. William was born on Tower-Hill, London, October 14, 1644. He received the first rudiments of his education at Chigwell in Essex; thence he was removed to a school on Tower-Hill, near the town residence of his family; and at the age of fifteen, became a member of Christ-Church, Oxford. He appears, to have imbibed new and singular ideas concerning religion, in con-

sequence of the preaching of Thomas Loe, a layman of the same University, who had become a Quaker. This circumstance, rendered his early career rather unfortunate; for he was not only expelled, and fined for non-conformity; but actually turned out of doors by his own father, Admiral Sir William Penn, a great favourite at the court of Charles II. The latter, however, at the entreaty of a fond mother, forgave his son; and soon after sent him to the continent. He resided some time at Paris, and although of a sect that usually disclaimed even defensive war, he drew his sword on being attacked, and after a conflict, first disarmed, then spared the life of his adversary.

On his return from abroad, Mr. William Penn became a student of Lincoln's Inn; in 1666-7, he was sent to Ireland, to look after a family estate; and was there imprisoned for a short time, in consequence of attending a Quakers' meeting.

In 1668, he began to preach in England, and was soon after sent to the Tower, on account of his religious observances. In 1670, he was committed to Newgate, for a sermon delivered by him in Grace-Church Street; and on his trial at the Old Bailey, exhibited great legal knowledge, accompanied with much personal intrepidity, during a dispute with Howel, the Recorder: this was followed by an acquittal, in consequence of the firmness of the jury. Notwithstanding that, he was once more committed to Newgate, and on this, as on former occasions, employed his time in writing controversial tracts. In 1672, he married an amiable and respectable lady, with whom he settled at Rickmansworth; and when the government became more enlightened, tolerant, and liberal, we find him engaging in great and noble concerns. So early as 1676, Mr. Penn became a manager of proprietary concerns in New Jersey; and having divided that immense country into two separate portions; he drew up a constitution, and invited settlers. In 1679, he assisted Algernon Sidney, in his contest for the borough of Guilford; in 1680, he solicited Charles II. for a grant of certain lands in North America, by way of composition for the debt, due by government to his father, who was now dead; in 1681, he became

a proprietor of East New Jersey, afterwards named Pennsylvania, by the King; and commenced a settlement there.

The plan of his new constitution had for its object, we are told, “to support power in reverence with the people, and to secure the people from the abuse of power, that they may be free by their just obedience, and the magistrates honourable for their just administration; for liberty without obedience is confusion, and obedience without liberty is slavery.”

In 1682, this good, intrepid, and amiable Quaker, visited Pennsylvania, and convoked the first assembly of that province. He then visited the interior of the country, had frequent interviews with the Indians; indemnified them for their lands; founded the city of Philadelphia, and beheld the woods everywhere levelled, and the country fast peopling with inhabitants.

At the end of two years, he revisited England, where, on account of his favour with James II., he was considered as a “Papist and Jesuit.” He now interceded with that monarch in behalf of John Locke; and entered into an interesting correspondence with Tillotson. Such now was his influence, that he had a great share in obtaining the “Toleration act.”

On the Revolution, some fears were entertained of Mr. Penn, on account of his personal attachment to the abdicated monarch. Soon after this epoch, he was very unjustly deprived of his government, by King William, but afterwards restored in 1699; on which he undertook a second voyage to America. He now opened the way for the abolition of negro slavery, and rectified the various disorders that had crept into the government, during his absence. In 1701, he returned to his native country, and after encountering a variety of hardships and difficulties, during which he was obliged to mortgage his province, for a paltry sum; he died at Rushcomb, on the 30th of July 1718.

“It appears,” we are told, “that he was tall in stature, and of an athletic make. He delighted when young, in manly sports. In maturer years, he was inclined to corpulency, but using a great deal of exercise, he was very active with it. His appearance at this time, was that of a fine portly man.

We have no portrait taken of him while alive. Silvanus Bevan, a chemist of eminence in London, who, when young had known him well, took great pains to form a bust of him, some time after his decease, in which he was assisted by others familiarly acquainted with him, and having made three copies of it, he sent one of them to James Logan of Philadelphia.

“ William Penn, was very neat, though plain in his dress. He walked generally with a cane. He was very neat also in his person, and had a great aversion to the use of tobacco. William Penn is said to have possessed fine talents, and Sir John Rhodes, says, that he was qualified for a high station in life, by very bright and excellent parts, and these cultivated and improved by the advantage of a very liberal education, and also polished by travelling abroad, and by conversation with some of the greatest men the age produced.

“ He was indefatigable as a minister of the gospel, and used, while preaching, language the most simple, and easy to be understood; and he had a happy way of explaining himself by images the most familiar. He was of such humility, that he used generally to sit at the lowest end of the space allotted to ministers, always taking care to place above himself poor ministers, and those who appeared to him to be peculiarly gifted.”

It would be unnecessary here, to estimate the worth of William Penn, as a legislator, a governor, or a proprietor of Pennsylvania; as his character is well known, and fully delineated in respect to all these points, in the work now under consideration. But it may not be unnecessary to observe, that his biographer appears not only to have been at great pains to obtain access to curious and original documents, but has rescued the name of this celebrated Quaker, from all the ridiculous, as well as malicious charges, brought against him by his enemies.



## No. II.

MEMOIRS OF THE LIFE AND WRITINGS OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, LL. D. F. R. S. &c. MINISTER PLENIPOTENTIARY FROM THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, AT THE COURT OF FRANCE, &c. &c. WRITTEN BY HIMSELF TO A LATE PERIOD, AND CONTINUED TO THE TIME OF HIS DEATH, BY HIS GRANDSON, WILLIAM TEMPLE FRANKLIN.—NOW FIRST PUBLISHED FROM THE ORIGINAL MSS.

THE life of Dr. Franklin is peculiarly calculated, in a variety of points of view, to follow that of his great precursor William Penn. Their career, in many respects, was similar; their objects and pursuits nearly the same; they both contributed, although perhaps in an unequal degree, to the happiness and prosperity of the Trans-Atlantic Continent; and each has left an impression of the most lasting gratitude on the minds of the inhabitants.

Benjamin Franklin was born at Boston in New England, January 17, 1706. His progenitors lived originally at Ecton, a little village, which we believe, is about six miles distant from Northampton, where they possessed a freehold estate of about thirty acres.

“ Our humble family,” observes he “ early embraced the reformed religion. Our forefathers continued protestants through the reign of Mary, when they were sometimes in danger of persecution, on account of their zeal against popery. They had an English Bible, and to conceal it and place it in safety, it was fastened open with tapes under and within the cover of a joint stool. When my great-grandfather wished to read it to his family, he placed the joint stool on his knees, and then turned over the leaves under the tapes. One of the children stood at the door to give notice if he saw the apparitor coming, who was an officer of the Spiritual Court. In

that case, the stool was turned down again upon its feet, where the bible remained concealed under it as before."

Notwithstanding a very numerous family, his father Josiah, not only sent Benjamin to school at eight years old, but intended to devote him "as the tithe of his sons to the service of the church." However, the narrowness of his father's circumstances having prevented this; at the age of ten he was taken home to assist in the business of a tallow-chandler and a soap-boiler. He himself wished to become a sailor; but it was at length determined that he should be a printer.

Soon after this, he betook himself to a vegetable diet, by which he saved one half of the money allowed for his board; and he found his apprehensions much quicker in consequence of temperance in eating and drinking. With his savings he bought books; and at the same time finding, on trial, he did not excel in poetry, betook himself to prose, a circumstance which contributed not a little to his future advancement.

Meanwhile, his brother treated him with great harshness; and being passionate he beat him frequently; in fine, his apprenticeship appeared the most horrid species of servitude to Benjamin: "Perhaps this harsh and tyrannical treatment of me, might be a means of impressing me with the aversion to arbitrary power, that has stuck to me through my whole life." The young man accordingly took the earliest opportunity to repair to Philadelphia, where in consequence of his small stock of money he did not think it prudent to treat himself with a dinner, but "made a meal of dry bread!" Having obtained employment as a journeyman, he remained in this city, during some time, and was noticed by Sir William Keith, the Governor of the Province; but this great man, who was an *unbeliever*, deceived him in the most base and cruel manner; and he at length began to doubt the morality of all free-thinkers.

In a short time after this Mr. Franklin repaired to England, and arrived in London, Dec. 24, 1724. He worked at his trade, first at Palmer's printing-house, in Bartholomew-close, where he continued near a year; and happening to be em-

ployed on a new edition of Wollaston's "Religion of Nature," he himself wrote a little metaphysical piece, by way of answer, entitled "A Dissertation on Liberty and Necessity, Pleasure, and Pain." This produced his introduction to the celebrated Dr. Mandeville, author of the "Fable of the Bees," a "most facetious entertaining companion;" as well as to Dr. Pemberton, who promised to present him to Sir Isaac Newton. Sir Hans Sloane, hearing that he had a purse made of asbestos, invited the young man to his house, in Bloomsbury-square, showed him all his curiosities, and having persuaded him to add this to their number, paid him handsomely for it.

He next worked at Watts's printing-house, near Lincoln's-Inn-Fields; and although called the *Water American*, on account of his sobriety, yet proved himself far more strong, as well as more industrious, than those who drank beer. Here he became a legislator and a man of influence; for he not only proposed to make some new laws in their "chapel\*," but actually passed them in spite of all opposition. In consequence of his example too, many of his companions not only "left off their muddling breakfast of beer, bread, and cheese," but actually substituted a "porringer of hot water-gruel, sprinkled with pepper, crumbled with bread, and a bit of butter in it, for the price of a pint of porter, viz. three halfpence. This was a more comfortable, as well as a cheaper breakfast, and kept their heads clearer. Those who continued sitting with their beer all day, were often, by not paying, out of all credit at the ale-house, and used to make interest with me," adds he, "to get beer; their *light*, as they phrased it, *being out*."

In 1726, Mr. Franklin returned to America, and landing at Philadelphia, found Keith, who had been superseded, walking about the streets as a common citizen; and learned at the same time, that his old sweetheart, Miss Read, whom he afterwards married, had got a husband of a very worthless character. After serving some time in a store, or warehouse, he returned to his original business; soon became known and re-

\* Assembly of workmen in a printing-office.

spected on account of his character as well as industry. And when the *paper-money* was issued, he displayed a very superior degree of ingenuity in sketching and engraving the borders for the notes, conducting the letter-press, and when in want of "sorts," as no letter-foundry then existed on that continent, he used types as puncheons, and struck the matrices in lead. He also made his own printing ink, &c.

On the occasion just alluded to, Mr. Franklin formed an acquaintance with most of the principal people in the province; accordingly the Judges, the Surveyor-General, and many Members of the Assembly became his friends, and contributed not a little to his advancement in life.

Nearly at the same time he formed a club, under the name of the "Junto." With the members he discussed various points of morals, politics, and natural philosophy; essays also were composed and read; a president was regularly chosen; and the rules were drawn up with great care by the subject of this memoir. Out of this establishment, afterwards arose a subscription library, for which a charter was finally obtained; and this proved "the mother of all the North American subscription libraries, now so numerous." "It is become," adds he, "a great thing itself, and continually goes on encreasing: these libraries have improved the general conversation of the Americans, made the common tradesmen and farmers as intelligent as most gentlemen from other countries, and perhaps have contributed in some degree to the stand so generally made throughout the colonies in defence of their privileges."

Here ends the first part of the author's life, which was addressed to his son, the late Governor Franklin, who took an opposite part in the political contentions of North America, and afterwards received a considerable pension in England, as a loyalist. Part II. was commenced at Passy, near Paris, in 1784, after the author had obtained a high diplomatic character, and distinguished himself not a little by his discoveries in electricity.

We learn from the latter portion of the work, that at the time he established himself in Pennsylvania, there was not a good

bookseller's shop in any of the colonies to the southward of Boston. Notwithstanding two competitors in business, and an increasing family, his circumstances improved daily, in consequence of his prudence and assiduity.

“ Reading was the only amusement I allowed myself. I spent no time in taverns, games, or frolics of any kind; and my industry in my business continued as indefatigable as it was necessary.

“ My original habits of frugality continuing, and my father having among his instructions to me when a boy, frequently repeated a Proverb of Solomon, “ *Seest thou a man diligent in his calling, he shall stand before kings, he shall not stand before mean men;*” I thence considered industry as a mean of obtaining wealth and distinction, which encouraged me; though I did not think I should ever literally stand before kings, which, however, has since happened; for I have stood before five, and even had the honour of sitting down with one (the King of Denmark) to dinner.

“ We have an English proverb that says,

‘ He that would thrive  
Must ask his wife ;’

It was lucky for me that I had one as much disposed to industry and frugality as myself. She assisted me cheerfully in my business, folding and stitching pamphlets, tending shop, purchasing old linen rags for the paper-makers, &c. We kept no idle servants, our table was plain and simple, our furniture of the cheapest. For instance, my breakfast was for a long time bread and milk, (no tea,) and I ate it out of a two-penny earthen porringer, with a pewter spoon: but mark how luxury will enter families, and make a progress in spite of principle; being called one morning to breakfast, I found it in a china bowl, with a spoon of silver. They had been bought for me, without my knowledge, by my wife, and had cost her the enormous sum of three-and-twenty shillings; for which she had no other excuse or apology to make, but that she thought *her husband* deserved a silver spoon and china bowl

as well as any of his neighbours. This was the first appearance of plate and china in our house, which afterwards, in a course of years, as our wealth increased, augmented gradually to several hundred pounds in value."

Mr. Franklin for many years subscribed for the support of a Presbyterian minister in Philadelphia. This clergyman used to visit him sometimes as a friend, and on these occasions he always admonished him to attend his "administrations." He was accordingly prevailed upon to attend for five Sundays successively; but he proved to be a bad preacher; and besides never inculcated or enforced a single moral principle. Thinking that his aim was rather to make the congregation "Presbyterians than good citizens," he at length withdrew in disgust, and returned to the use of "a little liturgy, or form of prayer, drawn up in 1728, entitled, Articles of Belief and Acts of Religion." "My conduct might be blameable," observes he, "but I leave it, without attempting further to excuse it; my present purpose being to relate facts, and not to make apologies for them." "About the same time," it is added, "I conceived the bold and arduous project of arriving at *moral perfection*; I wished to live without committing any fault at any time, and to conquer all that either natural inclination, custom, or company might lead me into. On the whole, though I never arrived at the perfection I had been so ambitious of obtaining, but fell far short of it, yet I was by the endeavour a better and a happier man than I otherwise should have been, if I had not attempted it.

"It may be right my posterity should be informed, that to this little artifice, (he here alludes to the notes he took of his conduct,) with the blessing of God, their ancestor owed the constant felicity of his life, down to the 79th year, in which this is written. To *Temperance* he ascribes his long continued health, and what is still left to him of a good constitution. To *Industry and Frugality* the early easiness of his circumstances, and acquisition of his fortune, with all that knowledge that enabled him to be an useful citizen, and obtained for him some degree of reputation among the learned.

To *Sincerity* and *Justice* the confidence of his country, and the honourable employs it conferred upon him; and to the joint influence of the whole mass of the virtues, even in the imperfect state he was able to acquire them, all that evenness of temper, and that cheerfulness in conversation which makes his company still sought for and agreeable even to his young acquaintances."

At length the subject of this memoir was elected a member of the assembly, and became a leading man in it. He most heartily joined the British government in the war against France, in 1753, and by means of his influence, enabled General Braddock to advance against the enemy. He also assisted in building forts for the protection of the province, and a battery for the defence of the city. So high was his character now become, indeed, that he was appointed deputy-postmaster-general; and such was his talents and success, that the revenue of this department in America became greater than what was obtained from all Ireland. The moment he was dismissed it once more sunk into insignificance. Mr. Franklin was also nominated a colonel of militia, during the war, and even offered by the Governor to be made a general, but he declined.

It was in 1746 that he first commenced his philosophical experiments\*; and his papers on electricity appear at first to have attracted more notice at Paris than at London: at length, however, he became a member of the Royal Society, and obtained the degree of LL.D. from Oxford.

In 1757, Dr. Franklin repaired once more to England; and with this epoch concludes that portion of the work which was principally drawn up by himself: indeed, the first fifty-seven pages only are composed in *regular series* by him; and from that specimen it is greatly to be lamented that the whole was not written by his own hand.

As this can only be properly considered as the private life of Dr. Franklin, we shall omit every thing relative to his diplomatic

\* See Vol. i. p. 586. of Annual Obituary for an account of Dr. Franklin's correspondence; and also for many particulars relative to his philosophical discoveries.

mission, as well as the part he acted during the American contest. It may be necessary, however, to add that as he advanced in years, he became subject to fits of the gout, to which, in 1782, a nephritic colic was superadded. From this time, he was afflicted with the stone, as well as the gout, and for the last twelve months of his life these complaints almost entirely confined him to his bed. In the beginning of the Spring, he was attacked with a fever and complaint of the breast, which terminated his existence; and he accordingly expired on the 17th of April, 1790, about 11 o'clock at night, closing a long life of 84 years and four months, without a groan.



## No. III.

MEMOIR OF MOWHEE, A YOUNG NEW-ZEALANDER, WHO DIED AT PADDINGTON. — IN A LETTER ADDRESSED TO THE REV. JOSIAH PRATT, B.D. SECRETARY OF THE CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY; BY THE REV. BASIL WOODD, M.A. — 2d Edition.

THIS short biographical memoir has been published by the Church Missionary Society. Without entering into any of the disputes that have lately taken place in the Christian world, on the subject of *missions to distant lands*, we shall immediately proceed to communicate some particulars relative to this young and interesting convert.

It appears from the statement of the Rev. Basil Woodd, that Mowhee was born in the island of New Zealand, about the year 1796; and, at the request of this gentleman, who appears to have paid him great attention, he presented him with the following narrative in writing, which the hand of death prevented from continuing further than the close of the year 1814, when he returned to his native island.

“ From this narrative, and from occasional conversation,” observes the Rev. Author, “ I have collected the following interesting facts; and, so far as I am able, I shall insert the statement in his own plain and unaffected words. The history discloses an extraordinary series of the interpositions of Divine Providence.

“ Mowhee was a relation of Terra, a head chief, and a man of considerable influence, on the south side of the Bay of Islands.

“ About the year 1806, one of the natives had gone to Port Jackson in New South Wales, and staid there some time. On his return, he told his countrymen ‘ what a fine place the English people had, and the wonderful news of our Saviour

dying for sinners and the world.' He also persuaded many of the natives to wish to send their children thither.

" Shortly after, two ships came into the harbour. The Captains came on shore; one of them to the spot where Mowhee's family resided. By the character Mowhee gave of him, he appears to have been a man of a very friendly disposition, and of a religious state of mind. He frequently conversed with Mowhee's father; and endeavoured to impress on his conscience the value of his soul, the importance of eternity, and the leading truths of the Christian Religion. This kind attention so much gained the affections and confidence of the father, that, when the ship was preparing to quit New Zealand, he earnestly entreated the Captain to take his son a voyage with him.

" Mowhee was at this period about nine or ten years of age. He had been a good deal with the Captain while on shore, and loved him as a parent. He had also been frequently on board the ship; and, as was perfectly natural, was greatly delighted with the novelty of the scene, and the prospect of the voyage to a new island.

" Accordingly, when the day arrived for the sailing of the ship, the father and mother and several natives accompanied Mowhee on board. Here he found a native with whom he was acquainted, who had been to visit the English Settlements, and was going back again with the captain. He spake highly of the kindness of the captain, and of the English people; and persuaded Mowhee to persevere in his intention.

" At this time the ship was surrounded with canoes, which kept her company till she was outside the heads of the Bay. About sun-set they left the ship; and now a most melancholy farewell was taken of Mowhee by his parents. The mother, in particular, was quite overwhelmed in an agony of grief. For a long time she refused to quit the ship; and was, at length, taken away by compulsion.

" This was the last time that Mowhee and his parents ever saw one another. Some months after, a fatal epidemic sickness was brought from a distant part of the island. Numbers

caught the infection and died; and, among them, the affectionate parents of our young friend. Mowhee always spoke of his father as a man who had learned of the Captain to worship the true God; and he trusted he should meet him again, *to part no more.*

“ In the evening, the Captain called Mowhee, and the other native, whose name was Hearry, into the cabin. He spoke kindly to them, and bade them be assured of his friendship; and told Mowhee, that he should in future call him by the name of Thomas.

“ During this evening, the wind began to blow very hard, and the sea was very tempestuous for a few days. Mowhee was exceedingly terrified; but his countryman quieted his fears, by assuring him that the storm would not long continue, and that, in a short time, they would see Norfolk Island. As soon as they arrived off that island, a boat came on board, with a Mr. Drummond, who took Mowhee and the other native on shore, to his own house.

“ The first object which engaged his attention and excited his astonishment, in this place, was the building of a brig; a sight to him entirely new.

“ Mr. Drummond received him with great kindness: and assured him, that, if he was disposed to reside with him, he should be treated like one of his sons.— Mr. Drummond placed him at a day-school for near a year. Here he began to learn to read and write; and from this period, as a token of regard, he took the name of Thomas Drummond.— Shortly after, the whole family sailed for New South Wales. They landed at Sidney; and, in February 1812, removed to a farm, at a village called Liverpool.

“ During this period, it appears that Mr. Drummond, and the Rev. Mr. G——, used to explain to Mowhee the general principles of the Christian Religion, the meaning of going to church, the nature of the worship due to Almighty God, and the Redemption of man by the death of the Lord Jesus Christ. Here, to use his own words, he frequently was taught that the son of God came into the world to save sinners, and that who-

soever believed on Him should inherit everlasting life. Mr. D. had adopted the pious and venerable custom of having all his family and servants, every Sunday evening, in his parlour. He heard them read portions of the Holy Scriptures, and then familiarly explained them, according to their capacities.

“ Mowhee’s ordinary employment was in the farm ; and much of his time was occupied in taking care of the sheep, and preventing their straying to lose themselves in the woods. His mind, however, possessed too much ardour and activity for this mode of life. He described it as a lonesome employment ; and, in a few months, he became completely weary of it, and expressed to Mr. Drummond, his earnest desire to quit the farm, and gratify his curiosity in seeing more of the world.

“ Just at this crisis, the Rev. Samuel Marsden calling at Mr. Drummond’s, Mowhee’s desire was communicated to him. He arranged an exchange in consequence ; and Mowhee was removed to Parramatta. He was thus placed under the protection of this distinguished clergyman, and enjoyed the benefit of his prayers, example, and daily instruction. About this period he was admitted to the Christian Church by the Sacrament of Baptism. He was also introduced to the acquaintance of another persevering labourer in the missionary cause, Mr. Thomas Kendall.

“ This gentleman having, apparently by mere accident, passed by Bentinck Chapcl one Sunday morning, about the year 1805, was induced, by hearing the sound of the organ, to go in. The consequence was, that he was one of the audience the first time that a sermon was preached there in order to excite Christians, by their prayers and exertions, to send the Gospel to other nations. The subject was quite new to him : his mind became decply impressed with guilt, for having hitherto neglected this important duty ; and he resolved, by the grace of God, to devote himself to the service of the heathen. Having waited seven years for a favourable opportunity, with much prayer, patience, and perseverance ; the wished-for day at length arrived, when he relinquished every temporal prospect in his native country ; and, with his four children,

and his wife, then pregnant, set sail, May 31, 1813, on board the *Earl Spencer*, a convict ship, for New South Wales. He arrived at Port Jackson on the 10th of November following, after a very pleasant passage, and just before the period when Mowhée, by being removed to Parramatta, came under the protection of Mr. Marsden.

“ When Mowhee arrived, Mr. Kendall was gone with Mr. Hall to New Zealand, to inquire into the dispositions of the inhabitants, and the probability of succeeding in a missionary settlement.

“ August 22, 1814, they returned in the *Brig Active*, bringing with them six of the natives, and one of the chiefs, Duaterra.

“ Mr. Kendall devoted much of his time to the instruction of Mowhee; and a friendship was formed from this period, which we trust will survive the grave.

“ Mowhee appeared to be a youth of tender feelings. He never forgot Mr. Kendall's kind attention. Whenever his name was mentioned, his eyes sparkled with tears of affection. He generally sat at Bentinck Chapel, in the same pew which Mr. Kendall had occupied; and one of the last intelligent sentences which he ever uttered was, ‘ Tell Mr. Kendall, I never forgot his instructions.’

“ When the *Active* sailed the next time to New Zealand, Nov. 19, 1814, with the Reverend Mr. Marsden, Mr. and Mrs. Kendall, and others, Mowhee accompanied them. A most interesting account of this voyage has been given in the *Missionary Register* for November and December 1816. On Tuesday Dec. 27, 1814, the *Active* arrived at the Timber District, on the south side of the Bay of Islands. This was the district to which Mowhee belonged, and to the chief of which he was related.”

The interview between Mowhee, his relations and countrymen appears to have been truly affecting; and he was now left by Mr. Marsden in New-Zealand, with a view to assist in the improvement of the islanders. But about the month of August, 1815, he determined to repair to England; and

having accordingly entered as a common sailor on board the Jefferson whaler, he arrived in London, during the spring of 1816. This forlorn youth was immediately taken care of by the Church Missionary Society; and great expectations were formed of him, when he died of a malignant putrid fever, at Paddington, on December the 12th, 1816. A funeral sermon was preached by the Rev. B. Woodd, on January the 12th, 1816, out of respect to the memory of this young man, who appears to have been singularly qualified for the mission with which he was about to be entrusted.

## No. IV.

ANECDOTES OF THE LIFE OF RICHARD WATSON,  
BISHOP OF LANDAFF; WRITTEN BY HIMSELF, AT DIFFERENT INTERVALS; AND REVISED IN 1814. PUBLISHED BY HIS SON RICHARD WATSON, LL. B. PREBENDARY OF LANDAFF AND WELLS.

THIS work has excited a considerable portion of attention; and it must be allowed to have gratified public curiosity in no inconsiderable degree. To the Prelate who is the chief subject of these anecdotes we have already assigned a memoir, (See vol. i. 429.) but this volume, not only contains a variety of particulars respecting himself as well as his family, but also much contemporary biography.

Dr. Watson justly remarks, “that all families are of equal antiquity,” and that, by the operations of time and chance, “Kings become beggars, and beggars become kings.” He also ridicules German and Welch pedigrees, and can see no solid reason “why any man should derive honour or infamy from the station which his ancestors filled in civil society.” “Notwithstanding this, such is the prevalence of habit,” he observes, that he frankly allows, he himself is a slave to this general prejudice; and feels a satisfaction that his ancestors “have neither been hewers of wood or drawers of water,” but —

*Ut prisca gens mortalium.*

tillers of their own ground, in the idiom of the country, *statesmen*.

He was born at Heversham, in Westmoreland, in August, 1737; and there is a tradition that the first of his family came from Scotland. In 1698, his father, then in the 26th year of his age, was appointed head master of Heversham school,

which he taught with great reputation for nearly forty years : Ephraim Chambers, the author of the Dictionary of Arts and Sciences, was one of his pupils ; and there are some memorials still extant which prove that he had acquired a considerable proficiency in Greek and Latin.

As there are two exhibitions appertaining to this institution, young Watson obtained that to Trinity College, Cambridge ; and as he had never been taught to make Latin or Greek verses it afterwards cost him more pains to remember whether a syllable was long or short, than to comprehend a whole section of Newton's *Principia*.

His father having died in November, 1753, he was sent to the University on the 3d of November, 1754, without being acquainted with a single person there, except his tutor, Mr. Blackhouse. Mr. Watson commenced his academic studies with great eagerness, from knowing that his fortune was to be of his own fabricating ; for he was certain that the slender portion of 300*l*. lately left him, would be barely sufficient to complete his education. At the end of the first six months, he appears to have been considered a metaphysician of some note ; and four years after he took his Bachelor's Degree. Dr. Law, then Master of Peterhouse, and afterwards Bishop of Carlisle, sent for, and desired his acquaintance.

“ From my friendship with that excellent man,” adds he, “ I derived much knowledge and liberality of sentiment in theology : and I shall ever continue to think my early intimacy with him a fortunate event in my life.”

As he perceived that the Sizars were not so much respected as they deserved, Mr. Watson offered himself for a scholarship, and succeeded in 1757, when he obtained that of Lady Jermy's ; this he owed to Dr. Smith, then Master of his College, who by his particular notice “ gave a spur to his industry, and wings to his ambition.”

On lately looking over two of his declamations at this period, he rejoices to find ; “ that a long commerce in the public world has only tended to confirm that public bent of his mind in favour of civil liberty, which was formed in it before I



knew," observes he, "of what selfish and low-minded materials the public world was made."

He generally studied mathematics in the morning, and classics in the afternoon; and he got such parts of orations as pleased him particularly, by heart: Demosthenes was his orator; Tacitus his historian; and Perseus his favourite satirist.

In 1760, Mr. Watson obtained a fellowship at Trinity College; about the same time he refused the curacy of Clermont, and the office of chaplain to the factory at Bencoolen.

Having taken the degree of M. A., in 1762, in 1764 he was unanimously elected Professor of Chemistry, although, observes he, "I knew nothing at all of chemistry, had never read a syllable on the subject, nor seen a single experiment on it; but I was tired with mathematics and natural philosophy, and the —

*Vehementissimæ gloriæ cupido,*

stimulated me to try my strength in a new pursuit, and the kindness of the University (it was always kind to me) animated me to very extraordinary exertions. I sent immediately after my election, for an operator to Paris; I buried myself, as it were, in my laboratory, at least as much as my other avocations would permit; and in fourteen months from my election, I made a course of chemical lectures, to a very full audience, consisting of persons of all ages and degrees in the University."

In 1771, our author obtained the King's mandate for a doctor's degree, and was soon after elected Professor of Divinity.

"Thus did I," adds he, "by hard and incessant labour for seventeen years, attain at the age of thirty-four, the first office for honour in the University; and exclusive of the Mastership of Trinity College, I have made it the first for profit. I found the Professorship not worth 330*l.* a year, and it is now worth 1000*l.* at the least. On being raised to this distinguished office, I immediately applied myself with great eagerness to the study of divinity. Eagerness, indeed, in the pursuit of

knowledge was a part of my temper, till the acquisition of knowledge was attended with nothing but the neglect of the King and his Ministers; and I feel by a broken constitution, at this hour, the effects of that literary diligence with which I laboured for a great many years."

It appears, that the Dr. now determined "to study nothing but his Bible, being much unconcerned," observes he, "about the opinions of councils, fathers, churches, bishops, and other men, as little inspired as myself. The Professor of Divinity had been nicknamed, *Malleus Hæreticorum*; it was thought to be his duty to demolish every opinion which militated against what is called the orthodoxy of the Church of England. Now my mind was wholly unbiassed, I had no prejudice against, no predilection for the Church of England; but a sincere regard for the *Church of Christ*, and an insuperable objection to every degree of dogmatical intolerance.

"I never troubled myself with answering any arguments which the opponents in the Divinity Schools brought against the articles of the Church, nor ever admitted their authority as decisive of a difficulty; but I used on such occasions, to say to them, holding the New Testament in my hand, '*En sacrum Codicem.*' Here is the fountain of truth, why do you follow the streams derived from it by the sophistry, or polluted by the passions of man? If you can bring proofs against any thing delivered in this book, I shall think it my duty to reply to you; articles of churches are not of divine authority, have done with them, for they may be true, they may be false; and appeal to the book itself. This mode of disputing, gained me no credit with the hierarchy, but I thought it an honest one, and it produced a liberal spirit in the University."

We now find Dr. Watson resolved to enter into the "holy state of matrimony," and he appears to have been both fortunate, and happy in his choice.

"My constitution," observes he, "was ill-fitted for celibacy, and as soon, therefore, as I had any means of maintaining a family, I married. My wife was the eldest daughter of Edward Wilson, Esq., of Dallum Tower in Westmoreland.

We were married at Lancaster, on the 21st December, 1773. During a cohabitation of above forty years, she has been every thing I wished her to be, and I trust, I have lived with her, and provided for her, as a man not unconscious of her worth, ought to have done. The day after my marriage, I set forward to take possession of a sinecure rectory in North Wales, procured for me, from the Bishop of St. Asaph, by the Duke of Grafton, out of a kind consideration of my being ill-provided for; as I had no preferment but the Professorship of Divinity. This sinecure, on my return to Cambridge, I exchanged for a Prebend in the church of Ely: the exchange was wholly owing to the unsolicited attention of the Duke.

“At the time he did me this favour, we thought differently in politics. I had made no scruple of every-where declaring, that I looked upon the American war as *unjust* in its commencement, and that its conclusion would be unfavourable to this kingdom; and his Grace did not abandon the administration till October 1775.”

Dr. Watson, having taken singular pains in the education of Lord Granby, afterwards Duke of Rutland, about this period, received a very kind letter from him, containing an invitation to Chevley. He declared his gratitude, for having been made to study Locke; and promised, that the tenets contained in the works of that great scholar, which “are so attentive to the natural rights of mankind,” should ever be the guide and direction of his actions. His lordship concluded by adding, that although he had formed a tory connexion, whig principles were too firmly rooted in him, ever to be removed.

In 1782, in consequence of the friendship of this nobleman, and it ought also to be added, the regard ever expressed towards him, both by the Duke of Grafton, and Lord Shelburne, Dr. Watson was nominated Bishop of Landaff. To the second of these, now become minister, he soon after pointed out the propriety of a moderate “reform in the church;” but he was told by him, “it was not time;” and does not appear, either to have found the Right Reverend

Bench, or any distinguished member of administration, in favour of such a plan.

In 1786, the Bishop of Landaff, very unexpectedly came into the possession of a very considerable property, which was left him by his *quondam* pupil, Mr. Luther, M. P. for Essex, who had been under great obligations to him, on a variety of occasions.

“ On opening the will, I was found to be sole executor. His Essex estate was left to his younger nephew, Francis Fane, Esq., in strict entail to some other of his relations, with the remainder to me. His Sussex estate was left to me, and my heirs, charged with a legacy of 3000*l*. I sold the estate in the following July, to the late Lord Egremont, for 23,500*l*. I have managed as I ought to have done, this legacy. It has enabled me to preserve my independence, and to provide for my family. I have a thousand times thought, that had I been a mean-spirited, time-serving Bishop, I might, perhaps, have escaped that marked and unmerited neglect of the Court, which I have for so many years experienced, but that I should have certainly forfeited the affection of my friend; his upright and honourable principles, would never have suffered him to distinguish such a character, with that eminent token of his regard, which he bequeathed to me.”

In 1787, the health of Dr. Watson began to decline, and his physicians absolutely insisted on his never more presiding in the Divinity school. He accordingly retired, after nominating Dr. Kipling his deputy. He then repaired to Westmoreland, to try the effects of his native air; and in the autumn of the same year, he pronounced a panegyric in the House of Lords, on the Duke of Rutland, who had just died. In 1788, the Bishop of Llandaff visited his diocese, and composed, printed, and gave away, to above a thousand persons whom he then confirmed, a small tract, entitled, “ An Address to Young Persons, after Confirmation.”

In 1789, the Dr. made one of his best speeches, relative to the chief objects of the Regency bill. He had long known Mr. Pitt, but on this, and many other occasions, a

marked difference of opinion existed between them. Lord Thurlow does not appear to have entertained any great regard for this celebrated Divine; and it is a charge against that great lawyer, that on one memorable occasion, he misinterpreted a passage from Grotius, in order to impose on the house where he presided.

“The Chancellor,” observes he, “was an able and upright Judge, but as the Speaker of the House of Lords, he was domineering, and insincere. It was said of him, that in the cabinet he opposed every thing, proposed nothing, and was ready to support any thing. I remember Lord Camden’s saying to me one night, when the Chancellor was speaking, contrary, as I thought, to his own conviction, “there now, I could not do that; he is supporting what he does not believe a word of.”

In 1791, when the Catholic bill was in agitation, Dr. Watson addressed a letter to the Premier of that day, in which he expressed a wish to introduce into the oath of protestation, the following declaration, “And that we believe salvation is not restricted to the members of the church of Rome.”

“While the doctrine of there being no salvation out of the Romish pale is maintained,” adds he, “the Catholics have such a motive for making proselytes as belongs not to Protestants, and it is a motive which must operate with great force on the mind of every sincere Papist. I am apprehensive,” continues his Lordship, “that Catholic schools will become numerous; the glare of ceremonies will fascinate the minds of the common people; and the doctrine of absolution, and of praying souls out of purgatory, will be palatable to many. I am afraid of Popery, because where it has the power it assumes the right of persecution; and whilst it believes that in afflicting the body it saves the soul of a convert, I do not see how it can abandon the idea of the utility of persecution.”

Towards the latter part of his life, Dr. Watson retired to, and resided wholly at his seat, called Calgarth Park, in his native county. The neighbourhood had been already indebted to him for his numerous improvements; for he had

rendered the barren waste verdant, and had planted some of the loftiest hills in Westmoreland with trees of all kinds, both evergreen and deciduous. In 1813, his health began to decline in a very rapid manner; but although his mental faculties remained unimpaired, his Lordship, remembering the admonition of Gil Blas, and the conduct of the Archbishop of Toledo, carefully abstained from all literary compositions whatever. At length he expired on the 4th of July, 1816, in the 79th year of his age; leaving the manuscript of this work behind him for publication, all of which, but eleven lines, appears to have been either written or approved of by himself.

## No. V.

MEMOIRS OF THE LEGAL, LITERARY, AND POLITICAL LIFE OF THE LATE RIGHT HON. JOHN PHILPOT CURRAN, ONCE MASTER OF THE ROLLS IN IRELAND: COMPRISING COPIOUS ANECDOTES OF HIS WIT AND HUMOUR; AND A SELECTION OF HIS POETRY. INTERSPERSED WITH OCCASIONAL BIOGRAPHY OF HIS DISTINGUISHED CONTEMPORARIES IN THE SENATE AND AT THE BAR. — By WILLIAM O'REGAN, Esq., Barrister.

THE author, the place of whose nativity is plainly designated by his name, very justly and feelingly laments, “that of a country so renowned for a continued succession of illustrious men, fewer monuments are preserved in Ireland than in any other nation. History has scarcely condescended “adds he” to give them a place. The traits which have outlived its great actors are scanty, scattered, and meagre: the patriotism of literature, which elevates the character of a people, has devoted little of its labours to this department.

“What records have we of those who flourished for the last fifty years, the most memorable period of our history? Where then, in what archives are deposited the monuments of our illustrious dead? Where, but in Lodge’s Peerage, are to be found any traces of Anthony Malone, of Lord Perry, or of our late Demosthenes, Lord Avonmore? Where are their works, their words, and their actions preserved? In fugitive pieces of the day, or in the perishable and perishing journal of a blue-paper report: they are nearly gone. A Flood, with all his Pindaric fire; a Burgh, whose tongue was persuasion; and the long roll of great names, are nearly now no more.

‘*Omnes hi ignotis periere mortibus.*’

“Have Mr. Grattan, Mr. Plunket, Mr. Saurin, Mr. Bushe, no concern in their immortality? Is there one eminent man in

Scotland whose history is not blazoned forth, from a Hume to a Burns? What a rich harvest have they not reaped from the toil of that affecting ploughman! In Scotland they have hoarded every thing, whilst our abundant materials are neglected, like the fruits which blossom, ripen, and decay on the bosom of that generous soil which produces them in such exuberance and profusion."

We learn from Mr. O'Regan, that Mr. Curran was of an English stock; that one of his progenitors had come from Cumberland, and was induced to settle in Ireland, under the protection of the family of Allworths, who acquired large estates near Newmarket, on the fall of the Desmonds. His paternal ancestors were called *Curwen*, and his mother's name was Philpot; the latter descended from an ancient and still respectable Irish family.

Like the author of the article in the present volume\*, Mr. O'Regan informs us, that his father was in a very humble station; and that he himself was entirely indebted to his own talents for his rise in life. He ranks him very high indeed in the scale of genius and of acquirements; and although we are not disposed to dispute his testimony, yet some there are who may prove more sparing of their praise.

The limits of our work will only allow of the following short extract: "The humour of Horace is always agreeable; but Mr. Curran has much more wit, and, as a satirist, is equally pleasant. As severe as Juvenal, he is at once the comic and the tragic satirist; and when he comes to lash vice, his sentiments are manly and elevated. In cross-examining an old clergyman whose evasions of truth were disgraceful to him, he closed with this question:

' Doctor, when you last put your spectacles in the Bible, give me leave to ask you, did you close it on the passage which says, *Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour?* '"

\* See A Memoir of the Life of the Right Hon. John Philpot Curran.



## No. VI.

MEMOIRS OF THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LIFE OF THE RIGHT  
HON. R. B. SHERIDAN, WITH A PARTICULAR ACCOUNT OF  
HIS FAMILY AND CONNECTIONS. BY JOHN WATKINS,  
LL.D., 2d Edition, 2 Vols.

THE first volume of this work has already been noticed, (See vol. i. p. 567). The present commences with an account of the lamented illness of His Majesty; the impatience of the opposition, and the recall of Mr. Fox, their champion, from the continent, where he was employed in revisiting Italy, and recalling to his memory, the early scenes of his youthful travels.

Mr. Sheridan, on this occasion, assumed a very conspicuous part: "he represented Mr. Pitt as acting in a spirit of personal enmity to the Prince; and he concluded a desultory speech full of point and invective, with asking whether any person would advise his Royal Highness to say, — "I accept the regency under the limitations you propose, which I think are improper, and which I hope parliament will annul?" The convalescence of the King put an end to all further discussion on this delicate business; but the subject of these memoirs now engaged in a singular contest with Mr. Rolle, and nearly about the same time, exhibited an extraordinary instance both of his learning and memory, by correcting a Greek passage quoted by Lord Belgrave.

Soon after this, we find Mr. Sheridan once more entering into certain financial disputes with Mr. Pitt, relative to the state of the public revenue, in the course of which, the former contended against the possibility of lessening the national debt, without a considerable increase of the annual income, or a great reduction of the annual expenses. He, however, thought proper to protest against a new measure proposed by the pre-

mier, which had for its object, to subject the manufacture of tobacco to the excise laws. He, at the same time, objected to an additional tax on newspapers. So great, indeed, was Mr. Sheridan's fame, at the present moment, as a parliamentary orator, that, although not a native of Scotland, he was now selected to present numerous petitions for the reform of the royal burghs.

On the commencement of the French Revolution, the member for Stafford made an unqualified declaration, relative to the right of that and every nation to reform its own constitution. This produced a dispute with Mr. Burke, and a consequent separation in politics and friendship between these two extraordinary men. The particulars are here fully stated.

After recounting a variety of public occurrences in which Mr. Sheridan was engaged, Dr. Watkins proceeds to take a review of his private affairs at this moment. Drury-Lane was now in such a dilapidated condition, that it was necessary to pull down this old theatre. A new building on a grand and extensive scale, was soon after erected, and heavy expenses incurred "by the want of foresight." This event was followed by the loss of Mrs. Sheridan, by whom he had two children, a son who has died lately, and a daughter, who was cut off "in a state of infancy, while under the fostering care of Mrs. Canning, the esteemed friend of her departed parent, and the mother of the celebrated orator and statesman."

"In her person, Mrs. Sheridan," we are told, "was a model of perfect symmetry; her form light and airy, yet graceful and dignified; with features cast in nature's finest mould, and uncommonly expressive, when brightened up in conversation, or in singing; though, at other times, there was a languishing sweetness spread over her fine oval countenance, which appeared to indicate, either personal care, or internal decay."

On returning again to politics, we find the member for Stafford engaging in fresh disputes with Mr. Pitt relative to the public revenues; opposing the armament against Russia; reprobating the new system of police for Westminster; taking an active part in conjunction with the society, called the "the Friends of the

People," and supporting a fresh motion for parliamentary reform.

The prosecution of Mr. Hastings forms a new epoch in the life of Mr. Sheridan, and it must be allowed that he distinguished himself greatly by his eloquence on that occasion. His speeches, indeed, exhibit a blaze of unrivalled oratory; and they, accordingly, arrested the attention of the public for a considerable period. After this, the war with France became a fertile subject for the display of his talents; and his wit, sarcasm and ridicule were now all played off with considerable effect against his former coadjutors, Mr. Windham and Mr. Burke, who not only defended but applauded the contest.

During the mutiny in the Channel fleet, the author allows his conduct to have been noble; he also made an eloquent and patriotic speech on the threatened invasion. He afterwards opposed the union with Ireland, and having no longer time for original composition, we find, at this period, that he altered Kotzebue's play of Pizarro, and dedicated it to his second wife, the daughter of Dean Ogle.

On the appointment of the Addington administration, the subject of this memoir made a speech in its support, and he soon after obtained the office of Receiver-General, as a mark of personal favour from the Prince of Wales. When Mr. Fox succeeded to power, in 1800, he was also made treasurer of the navy.

But his eloquence was now obviously on the decline, and by the conflagration of the new theatre, his circumstances became daily more desperate. His party too, had been forced to retire from office; he himself was defeated at Stafford; his health also was precarious, and he seemed to be forsaken by the world.

We shall close this article, with a quotation that excites the most melancholy and unpleasant sensations.

"At the close of his days, he frequently appeared in a state bordering on stupefaction, his dress corresponding with the decay of mental dignity, and his conversation, which had long been the delight of the brightest circles, now losing all the power of

attraction, through the sad infirmity which he suffered to encroach over his moral energies, till its ascendancy was too firmly established to be shaken by advice, or the effects of it cured by medicine. Such was Richard Brinsley Sheridan, whose memoir will be of service, if it be regarded as a beacon pointing out the extreme danger of resting satisfied in the possession of splendid talents, without applying them to any efficient and practical purposes, in the great business of human life."

The second volume contains a very spirited likeness of the late Mr. Sheridan, engraved after a picture by Hopner.

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## No. VII.

### A MEMOIR OF THE LIFE OF THE RIGHT HON. JOHN PHILPOT CURRAN, LATE MASTER OF THE ROLLS IN IRELAND.

THIS biographical sketch of the life of a very singular, eloquent, and extraordinary man, has been drawn up for the express purpose of being prefixed to the volume of his speeches. It exhibits an original and unpublished specimen of his poetry; is evidently written by a gentleman well acquainted with him; and contains an illustration of all those circumstances, either connected with, or which gave birth to his various orations, both in the parliament and courts of justice of Ireland.

# BIOGRAPHICAL INDEX

## OF DEATHS,

FOR 1817.

COMPILED IN PART FROM ORIGINAL PAPERS, AND IN PART  
FROM CONTEMPORARY PUBLICATIONS.

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### A

**AACKEN**, Baron Ewald Charles, by shooting himself with a pistol in a hackney coach, at the gate of Carlton House. He was descended from one of the first families in Prussia. Prince Leopold of Saxe-Cobourg, father of our late amiable Princess Charlotte's husband, was his godfather. — His brother-in-law, Baron Leopold de Lillier, is a resident at Weillie, in Prussia. He had been upwards of 20 years in the army, ten of which he had been in the Prussian service, and the remainder in the Hanoverian. Notwithstanding he had distinguished himself in every way possible in the army, yet his services remained unnoticed by his own Government or any of the Allies, either as to honours, promotion, or emolument; and in consequence he became a desperate man. When he arrived in England, about three months since, he was possessed of about 200 Louis d'Ors, when he met with a friend whom he consulted on the best way of sending 100 of them abroad to his mother. His friend endeavoured to persuade him from such an undertaking, telling him his mother was not in need of them; to which the Baron replied, his mother could give them away among the poor, and after he had spent all his money in this country he would shoot himself; which he verified, as he paid his last note to the hackney-coachman; and, it appearing before the

Jury that he died without having any effects, except his clothes, swords, and pistols, (one of the swords had a pistol attached to it, which he had taken from the Aid-de-Camp of Marshal Ney,) the Chevalier Ruspini, the foreman of the Jury summoned to enquire into the cause of his death, and which returned a verdict of *Insanity*; very humanely undertook to respect the remains of an unfortunate foreigner, and has paid the expences of his funeral.

It appears from his papers that he was the original instrument, previously to the arrival of the Duke of Wellington in the field from Brussels, in gaining the victory in the memorable battle of Waterloo, by regaining the position of the Allied Army, which they had lost by the French having succeeded in attacking and breaking a square. A certificate to that effect has been found since his untimely end, from Major-General Von Bothemer, who took the command of the battalion of Bremen and Verdun, after Lieut.-Colonel Von Schkopp was wounded in the memorable battle of the 18th of June, 1815, testifying that after the battalion of Verdun, which was formed in squares, had been compelled to retire to Waterloo by the fire of the enemy, Baron Von Aacken highly distinguished himself, and having assembled a small body of men, succeeded in regaining the position which the square originally possessed, and that in consequence the remainder of the brigade which had already

retreated as far as Waterloo, returned at nine o'clock in the evening, and joined Baron Von Aacken's party for the night, in their original position; dated Orchies, 14th April, 1817. All the exertions of the other Officers to restore order had been in vain. There is a certificate to the same effect by General Sir Colin Halkett, endorsed as unsolicited by Baron Von Aacken. There are five certificates speaking of him in the highest terms of praise as an officer and a gentleman, and countersigned by command of his Excellency General Count Alten, commanding his Hanoverian Majesty's troops in France, &c. the 13th of April, 1817.

APLIN, Peter Esq. Admiral of the White, at Charlton Kings, county of Gloucester, June, 1817, in the 64th year of his age. He commenced his naval career at a very early age, and served during the American war as a midshipman on board the *Roebuck*, of 44 guns, commanded by Sir A. Hammond, Barr. on that station. He received his first promotion from the death of the First Lieutenant of that ship whilst forcing a passage past the batteries of Washington and Fort Lee. His subsequent conduct soon attracted the notice of Lord Howe, the Commander-in-Chief, who rapidly advanced him to the rank of Post-Captain, and appointed him to the *Fowey*, of 24 guns, which ship he was obliged eventually to destroy at York Town, then besieged and blockaded by the French and Americans. His conduct in the batteries, where with his crew, he was appointed to command, drew forth a warm eulogium from Lord Cornwallis, which induced the Admiralty to confirm him in his rank. He next commanded the *Hector*, of 74 guns, forming one of the fleet employed in the blockade of Cadiz under Earl St. Vincent. During the time the fleet was refitting at Lisbon, advice was received of the Spanish fleet having escaped out of port, which occasioned an order for every ship to get ready immediately for sea. The *Hector* at this juncture was the first ship manned, and dropped down below Balem that night; for which example and exertion Captain Aplin received a letter of thanks (through the medium of the then Captain of the Fleet, Sir R. Calder), from Lord St. Vincent. The latter years of his life were passed in the domestic circle of his family and friends.

ARTHUR, Captain Thomas, of the engineer corps, Madras establishment, lately at Travancore, India, in the 38th year of his age. He was son of the Rev. Mr. Arthur, Risolis, Ross-shire. Captain Arthur began his military career under

General Harris, in the memorable campaign of 1799, and was one of the party which that year stormed Seringapatam. After the consequent conquest of Mysore, he was one of those selected to make a survey of the conquered country, which occupied him several years. While engaged in this undertaking, he was one day on a high hill nearly surprised by a royal tiger; but the animal being, for the time, scared away, Captain Arthur soon after went in pursuit of the monster, whom he found and killed in the most cool and daring manner, without any assistance — a sepoy and native who accompanied him, having fled, on seeing the animal advance open-mouthed, and with hideous roaring. In the course of his survey, he discovered a copper-mine, from which great expectations have been entertained. Captain Arthur remained in India after the year 1799 till his death; bore his share in the different wars which have since taken place there; and his name appeared more than once in the general orders issued by the Governor-General, thanking the army for their gallant exertions.

## B.

BLACKFORD, Mrs. at Dublin, 24th November, 1817. She was grand-daughter of the Earl of Darnley.

BORINGDON, Lord, lately at St. Maude, near Paris, aged eleven years, eldest son of the Earl of Morley. A stalk of rye, which he had inadvertently swallowed the latter end of July, was the cause of his sufferings. It was found, after his death, three inches in length, in its original state, lodged in the intestines.

BRUCE, Mr. W. aged 73, of Old Roundcourt, in the Strand, one of the oldest booksellers in London. He was originally, it is believed, a mathematical instrument maker; but left Scotland about forty years since, and followed in London the profession of a bookseller. He was celebrated for his knowledge of the Hebrew language, and his attachment to the authors of the Hutchinsonian school. He possessed strong natural powers of mind, and was singularly decided in his opinions — a Calvinist of the higher order, and mingled with all the philosophical notions of Mr. John Hutchinson. He had read very considerably, especially in theology, and was more particularly attached to the writers belonging to the Church of England, to which church he closely adhered. When the writer first knew him, about 23 years ago, he kept a shop in New Inn Passage, near Clement's Inn. At this time he was visited

by many clergymen and Hebrew scholars, who used to resort there occasionally, to listen to his conversation, which chiefly consisted of books and authors, of divines and theology. A respectable bookseller, now alive, and somewhat of a similar taste, used occasionally to make one of the number, and who, the writer believes, has likewise made some proficiency in Hebrew learning. Fond of his pipe, you would often find him in his shop amidst clouds of smoke, and disputing upon theological subjects. He was warm and dogmatical, yet sometimes interesting and intelligent. Not formed for much business, he was slow, with a considerable share of literary indolence and indifference; so that, in advancing life, he became extremely poor; but in his appearance always clean, decent, and respectable. He, however, met with many friends, and towards the latter part of his life received the attention of one or two eminent Prelates in the Church, whose names stand as much distinguished for their virtues, as their learning and talents are eminently and decidedly conspicuous. To patronize men of talents and learning, is honourable to the feelings of those who fill exalted stations; and to assist the friends of Christianity in distress, is no less praise-worthy in a Christian Bishop. He moved from New Inn-passage to Holywell-Street; from thence to Chancery-Lane, in which place he met with great difficulties, through the purchase of a large stock at very exorbitant prices. From this place he finally removed to Round-Court, where he resided during the last twelve years. He married a second wife, much younger than himself, by whom he had a young family in his old age, and two of his children now survive. He is a striking proof, that a man of knowledge and of real attainments, is not so likely to succeed in his profession as the mere tradesman, acquainted only with the arts of business, and who can push his way through life, fearless and indifferent to every object but that of profit.

*Gent. Mag.*

### C.

**CAMERON** Hugh, at Lawers, in Breadalbane, commonly called *Cobhau na Pillie*, mill-wright and miller there, at the extraordinary age of one hundred and twelve years. This singular character was bred a mill-wright, along with the venerable and ingenious Deacon Reid, wright at Comrie. After acquiring a knowledge of his business, he settled at Shian of Lawers, where he built the first lint-mill that ever was erected in the Highlands of Scotland.

Before his time, only the distaff and spindle were used for spinning lint and wool in that part of the country; and he was not only the first who constructed spinning-wheels and jack-reels in Breadalbane, but likewise the first who taught the people there, how to use them. The number of lint mills afterwards erected by him throughout the Highlands, cannot be reckoned at less than a hundred, in short almost all the lint-mills in the Highlands of Perthshire, and many in the counties of Inverness, Caithness, and Sunderland, were of his erecting; he also constructed the first barley-mill that was built upon the north-side of the Forth, for which he was highly complimented by *Masa Glasarrah*, the bard, in a very popular song, called "*Molodh di Cobham Camushran Mulleir lin.*" Though he could only be called a country wright, he was a man of uncommon genius, particularly in every sort of machinery and engineering; and, as a proof of this, there is to be seen of his construction, at Shian of Lawers, one water-wheel driving a lint-mill, a barley-mill, and a spinning and earding-mill, at one and the same time, and the whole of that machinery under one roof.

This prodigy of genius was a stout, healthy man, who took his glass freely, but never was known to exceed the bounds of decorum, or neglect his business: he was a man of very great integrity, and of a very shrewd and independent mind, yet always cheerful and remarkably witty; and, to the last, his house was the resort of all the young people in the place, whom he used to amuse with his witty repartees and funny stories. He was always celebrated for reciting Ossian's Poems, of which he had a great store, which he said he had learned before he was a dozen years of age. He was rather singular in his dress, which he would change for no man, he never had a glove on his hand, nor a hat on his head, but always wore a large round bonnet, made of grey mixed wool, just as it came off the sheep, with an uncommonly large wig, of his own making, of black horse-hair. It is rather to be regretted, that notwithstanding his wonderful merit, and the great advantages which the Highlands of Perthshire, Breadalbane in particular, derived from the fruit of his extraordinary genius, and though he had no family, he died in great poverty and indigence.

*Scots. Magazine, for July 1817.*

**CAMERON**, Serjeant Alexander, at Belfast, October 17, Pipe-Major of the 92d, or Cameronian Highlanders. He served in the Peninsula during the whole of the late war, and by his zeal attracted the notice of several officers of high rank.

Lieutenant-General Sir William Erskine, in a letter to a friend, after the affair of Rio del Molinas, says, "The first intimation the enemy had of our approach, was the piper of the 92d, playing 'Hey, Jonny Cope, are ye waukin' yet.'" To this favourite air from Cameron's pipe, the streets of Brussels re-echoed on the night of the 15th of June, when the regiment assembled to march out to the field of Waterloo. Once, and once only, was this brave soldier missed in his accustomed place in the front of the battle: and the occasion strongly marks the powerful influence which the love of fame had upon his mind.

In a London newspaper, a very flattering eulogium had appeared on the conduct of a piper of another regiment. Our gallant musician, conscious that no one could surpass him in zeal or intrepidity, felt hurt that he should not also have gained this flattering distinction; and declared that, if his name did not appear in the newspapers, he would no more play in the battle-field! Accordingly, in the next affair with the enemy, Cameron's pipe was mute! Some insinuations against the piper, reached his ear. The bare idea of his motives being misunderstood, was torture to poor Cameron, and overcame at once the sullen resolution he had formed of remaining silent in the rear. He rushed forward, and not content with gaining his place at the head of the regiment, advanced with a party of skirmishers, and placing himself on a height in full view of the enemy, continued to animate the party by playing favourite national airs.

For the last two years, his health sensibly declined. He was afflicted with an asthma, which the blowing of the bagpipe tended to aggravate. Notwithstanding, he could not be induced to resign his favourite employment, but continued to play till very lately, "The Gathering," for the daily assembling of the regiment. His remains were attended to the grave by several officers, all the non-commissioned officers, and the grenadier company, to which the deceased belonged.

CAMPBELL, Captain Thomas, lately at Kakundy, on the Rio Nunez, in Upper Guinea, on his return from the interior of Africa; of the royal staff corps, then commanding the expedition intended to explore the course of the Niger. This valuable officer, from whose talents, zeal, and eminent acquirements, much was to have been expected, fell a sacrifice to the severity of a tropical climate, and to the fatigue, anxiety, and privation to which the whole of his party had for some time been exposed. The expedition was intended, in some degree, to trace the route of the

lamented Park, proceeding by the shortest course from the coast, across the mountains of Kong, and keeping southward of the Moorish population to the upper part of the Joliba, or Niger, and thence descending that river to form a junction with the maritime expedition which had previously entered the Congo. The command had originally been entrusted to Major Peddie, an officer of enterprise, but who, unfortunately fell ill, and died on the 1st of January 1817, ere the party left the river Nunez—and about the same time the expedition lost a valuable officer in Lieutenant Macrae, who had joined only a few days. Captain Campbell afterwards proceeded by land about one hundred and fifty miles farther into the interior, to the river Panyetta, and near the mountains. The King of Teembo, in whose territories they were, was then at war with the Tendoo country, and declined granting permission for them to proceed farther, at least until the end of the campaign. In the mean time, the rainy season set in, and Captain Campbell having lost many of his companions, and the greater part of his beasts of burden, found it equally impossible to remain or to proceed. He resolved, therefore, to retrace his steps to the coast, and after undergoing great privations, arrived at Kakundy on the 8th of June, and collected vessels for transporting his men to Sierra Leone, until the expedition should be refitted, and a more favourable opportunity should permit its prosecution. He was not, however, destined to fulfil this intention, having expired soon after from extreme debility. Captain Campbell, was a native of Caithness; and inferior to none, in the knowledge of African Geography.

CARROL, James, at Bulogurteen (Kilkenny) aged 106. A few years ago an elder brother of his died, aged 117, who was attended to the grave by 80 children and grand-children, the least of whose ages was above 50 years, and a son of his now alive, who is near 100 years old, and enjoys good health, and the perfect possession of his faculties.

CHAVASSE, William, Esq. an officer in the Company's service, on his journey to the East Indies, aged 29. He came to England to impart to the Board of Admiralty an invention of the longitude, and returned in the spring for India, joined by Captain Macdonald, the bearer of public dispatches, at Constantinople. They resolved, instead of performing their journey to India by the accustomed route, to explore, from their over sanguine ardour, the tract described by Xenophon on his return. By this they experienced many hardships on their way, were imprisoned in a dungeon



by a Kurdish chief, at a place called Ingra, not far from Bagdad, but ransomed themselves by paying 800 piastres. The unfortunate Chavasse was seized with a brain fever on their liberation. His friend and fellow-traveller put him on a raft on the river Tigris, to reach Bagdad the sooner, for medical assistance; but he died on the raft, almost in sight of that city, and was buried by him in a retired spot on the banks of the river Tigris.

CLIFFE, Mrs., lately at Thelton-hall, Norfolk, in her 83d year. Mrs. Cliffe was relict of the late Robert Cliffe, Esq. of Brent Broughton-hall, in the county of Lincoln, a descendant of Sir Richard Cliffe. Her whole life was dedicated to piety, and the observance of every religious and moral duty. Possessing a large income, she was herself satisfied with little, and devoted the remainder to the affectionate feelings of a parent, and the virtuous charity of a Christian. She has left three daughters, Mrs. Darell, Mrs. Haver, and Mrs. Mauby. This lady was the undoubted heiress to an ancient barony, but the prohibition of legal registry of birth for Roman Catholics, deprived her of the documents of proof.

CUMMINS, Mr., suddenly at Leeds. While the tragedy of *Jane Shore* was performing at the Leeds theatre, the part of *Dumont* by Mr. Cummins, that highly respected veteran had just repeated the benedictory words,

“ Be witness for me ye celestial hosts,  
Such mercy and such pardon as my soul  
Accords to thee, and begs of heav’n to  
show thee;  
May such befall me at my latest hour—”

When he fell down on the stage, and instantly expired. The performance, of course, immediately closed. For some time, Mr. Cummins (the circumstances of whose death so nearly resemble those of Mr. Palmer) had laboured under that alarming malady designated by the name of ossification of the heart, or a change from the membranous into a boney substance; and to this circumstance, added to the strength of his feelings in the mimic scene, his death is to be attributed.

#### D.

D’EDLING, Count Philip, formerly Grand Master of the Household of the Archduchess Leopoldine, now Princess Royal of Brazil. He had set out from Vienna to Schoenbrunn, where he had been invited to dine with the Hereditary Prince

of Austria; and having chosen, as was his custom, to drive his calash himself, when he came to that place where the road to Schoenbrunn branches off from the great road to Buckersdorf, the reins fell from his hands, whether from his being affected with faintness, or a fit of apoplexy, is not known. The horses being left without controul, became furious, and, precipitating themselves towards the side, struck one of the posts of the road with the pole of the carriage so violently that the Count was thrown out on the ground, where he was found lying senseless, and most severely wounded. He was immediately conveyed to the nearest house, and attended by the surgeon and curate of the neighbouring village, but in less than a quarter of an hour he expired.

DE LUC, S. A., F.R.S. This venerable philosopher was born in Switzerland, in the year 1726. His whole life has been incessantly devoted to the acquisition and advancement of knowledge. His favourite pursuit, and that which has principally raised him to the high reputation which has attached to his name, was the investigation of the arrangement and composition of the globe; a science which is greatly indebted to his labours for its present triumph over its former obscurity. Mr. De Luc was not a mere theorist in the establishment of geological principles. He visited most of the countries of Europe in the course of his long and industrious life; and his researches have been assisted by the mutual exertions of the most learned and scientific men of his time. The principal object of Mr. De Luc was to corroborate the evidence of the Holy Scriptures by plain and demonstrable facts: in this he was eminently successful. He has left another memorial of his learning and piety in a convincing and affectionate address to the Jews on the mission of Christ. Mr. De Luc has published a *Treatise on Geology*, as well as six volumes of *Geological Travels*. His correspondence with most of the learned societies of Europe was as valuable as it was extensive.

For several years past, Mr. De Luc was confined to his room by the infirmities of age; but his scientific ardour was unabated, and he was, within a short period of his death, diligently employed in the composition or arrangement of observations on his principal pursuit. Mr. De Luc was most amiable in his private character, and ever anxious to encourage and assist the young querist in science by his friendship and advice.

DESSAU, Leopold Frederick Francis, Duke of; in his 77th year. He was born

August 10, 1740, and succeeded his father Leopold Maximilian, on the 16th Dec. 1756. In 1808, was celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of his reign, on which occasion he received the sincerest proofs of the respect and love of his subjects, to whom his excellent government was in all respects a blessing. To him Dessau owes its improvements; its Woerlitz, its Luisium, its fine roads, and the appearance of a beautiful garden; but his particular attention was directed to the system of education and schools. He employed Basedow and Tellid to realise his idea of the physical and moral education of man.

**DILLON**, the Countess, at Paris. This lady was the relict of the Hon. General Arthur Dillon, (brother of the late Viscount Dillon,) and cousin-german to Josephine, the first wife of Buonaparte. This lady was first married to the Count De la Touche, by whom she had one son, and a daughter married to the Duke of Fitzjames. By the late Hon. Arthur Dillon, she has left one daughter, married to General Bertrand. The absence of this daughter from Europe overwhelmed her mother with affliction, such as her health could not withstand. Few persons had suffered greater domestic afflictions than this lady: her husband, Gen. Dillon, to whom she was tenderly attached, perished in 1793 upon the scaffold, among the crowd of victims immolated to the demon of Revolutionary France; her favourite daughter, the late Duchess of Fitzjames, fell an early victim to consumption; and she lived to witness the perpetual exile of her sole remaining daughter, under circumstances which preclude even the consolation of complaint.

## E.

**ESTLIN**, Dr., of Bristol. (By Mrs. Barbauld.) John Prior Estlin was born at Hinckley, in Leicestershire, April 9th, 1747. He received his school-education under the auspices of his maternal uncle, the Rev. John Prior, vicar of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, and his earliest views in life seemed to be directed to the Church of England, towards which, and its religious services, notwithstanding the wide difference with regard to doctrinal points in the sentiments he afterwards entertained, he always felt a certain degree of respect and affection. From school, where he imbibed a taste for classical literature, he was however sent by his father to the Dissenting Academy of Warrington, where he was entered in the year 1764; and the course of studies he there went through

determined his choice towards a different persuasion. The divinity chair at this seminary was filled at that time by the Rev. Dr. Aikin, for whose character he ever entertained the highest respect and affection, and whose sentiments in morals and religion he for the most part adopted. Having finished his academical course, with credit to himself and satisfaction to his tutors, he was invited to the congregation of Lewins Mead, Bristol, as colleague to the Rev. Thomas Wright, in the room of the Rev. William Richards, and he entered on his ministerial services in January, 1771. With this congregation, (a numerous, respectable, and affectionate one,) he continued till those who had sat as children under his early ministry had themselves become heads of families, or perhaps had left those families to fill up their places in the religious assemblies; and Dr. Estlin, often spoke with much feeling of the numerous friends he had followed to the grave during his ministration; always adding, with energy, that he should ever bless God for the circumstance that he had not known an instance of a person who regularly attended the worship of God in that place, who had not hope in his death, and of whom he had not the brightest hopes. In his funeral sermon on the death of his co-pastor, in the year 1797, he says, "Two hundred times have I already been called to the discharge of a similar melancholy duty." Soon after his settling at Bristol, Dr. Estlin opened a school, which became a very flourishing one, and many of his pupils did credit to themselves and to their tutor, by the proficiency in classical learning which they exhibited when entered in the universities; to which many of them were removed. Dr. Estlin treated his pupils with great liberality; and their sense of the happy hours they had spent under his tuition was expressed by an annual meeting which was held on his birthday of the gentlemen who had been under his care, at which the doctor was always a delighted and delighting guest. At one of these meetings they presented him with the degree of Doctor of Laws, which they had procured for him without his knowledge, from the University of Glasgow. It was usual with Dr. Estlin, on these occasions, to address his former pupils in a short speech, and that which he delivered on his last birth-day, when he had completed his seventieth year, which conveyed an intimation that this might probably be the last meeting, was peculiarly impressive. His school and congregation did not, however, so engage the active mind of Dr. Estlin as to prevent his giving to the world several publications, all of them relative to

those topics of religion and morals which were the favourite subjects of his investigation. A list of these is subjoined; they testify that he approved himself the watchful and affectionate defender of the truths he professed to teach, and that the powers of his mind were engaged with sincerity and fervour in the duties of his profession. His style was elegant, clear, and flowing, rather turned to pathos than to dry argumentation; his delivery in the pulpit was animated, solemn, and affectionate. He was fond of preaching, and never spared himself when any occasion called him forth. Dr. Estlin's religious opinions were what are called Unitarian, though, with his usual candour, he thought it wrong to restrict that term to those who hold the simple humanity of Christ. He always invited discussion; and, though in the confidence of a sanguine disposition, (perhaps the best disposition for happiness,) he made no doubt of the prevalence of the opinions he held, and that, in a short time, over the whole Christian world, and the consequent overthrow of all error, he always showed the utmost candour to those of a different persuasion; the fervor of his religious feelings never led him to bigotry, nor his liberality to scepticism. He approved of forms of prayer, and published in 1814 a volume of such forms, great part of which is taken from the Liturgy of the Church of England, for the mode of whose services, though not for its doctrines, he seems to have retained his early predilections. Dr. Estlin also embraced with great ardour a doctrine so congenial to his temper as the consoling one of Universal Restitution, or the final salvation of all mankind; led to it, as well by the benevolent tendencies of his own mind, as by the earnest and reiterated arguments of a dear and beloved friend, who bore that all-consoling doctrine the nearest to his heart.

The characteristics of Dr. Estlin's mind were an amiable frankness and simplicity of heart; with a kind and sociable disposition, which made him, even when years pressed upon him, always acceptable, in the society of the young and active. With openness of heart, he never refused his purse to any claim of distress, or useful project to which subscriptions were solicited; and the money he thus disbursed, if put together, would be found to amount to no inconsiderable portion of his income. In the domestic circle, his kindness, his candour, his hospitality, his cheerful piety, the writer of this memoir has often experienced. In truth, in his behaviour to his family, principle was not called into action: temper was sufficient. Though fond of his children, he was not apt to indulge

that anxiety which saddens the domestic circle, and perhaps often defeats its own purposes. He lived to see his children grown up, and some of them settled in respectable professions. For some years past, Dr. Estlin had experienced a decay of sight, and he had often said, that after threescore and ten, a preacher ought to be *cemeritus*. He therefore resigned his situation in Lewins Mead, where he preached his farewell sermon, the 22d of June, 1817. This respectable society showed their regard for the services of their minister by very substantial expressions of their esteem and affection, having presented him with a handsome sum of money upon his retiring from his ministerial duties. Dr. Estlin, being thus exonerated from all professional duty, having also given up his school, went for the summer to Southerndown, in Glamorganshire, a retired place by the sea-side, where he had usually spent his vacations, and where he had amused himself by building a cottage. His health seemed to be declining, yet there appeared nothing immediately alarming. On Sunday, the 10th of August, he performed the morning and afternoon services to his family, and a few neighbours assembled in his house; the subject of his sermon was the Resurrection. He appeared that day better than usual; but, retiring soon after to his chamber, he was seized with a violent effusion of blood from his lungs. The affectionate partner of his life ran to him, he grew faint, leaned his head upon her bosom, and, without a sigh, expired. Dr. Estlin's remains were conveyed, attended by his sorrowing family, to Bristol, and interred in the burying-ground belonging to Lewins Mead Chapel, on the 23d. They were attended to the grave by more than 120 gentlemen on foot, the carriages of many of them following. The burial service was performed by the Rev. Dr. Carpenter, his successor in the pastoral office, and, on the next Sunday, an affecting and consolatory sermon was preached by his old friend, the Rev. James Manning, of Exeter. The chapel was hung with black, and the whole congregation put on mourning.

Dr. Estlin was twice married, first to Miss Coates, of Bristol, by whom he had one son, who died before him, but who has left a family; his second, Miss Bishop, of Bristol, with six children, survives to cherish and to do honour to his memory. The writer of this memoir could have enlarged upon feelings the result of private friendship, but has preferred touching on no topics which are not equally interesting to all who knew the subject of it.

A. L. BARBAULD.

Dr. Estlin published :

Evidences of Revealed Religion, and particularly Christianity; stated with reference to a Pamphlet called the *Age of Reason*.—The Nature and Causes of Atheism; to which are added, Remarks on a Work called "*Origine de tous les Cultes, ou Religion universelle; par Dupuis*."—An Apology for the Sabbath.—The Union of Wisdom and Integrity recommended, in a Discourse delivered before the Unitarian Society in the West of England.—A volume of Sermons, designed chiefly as a Preservative from Infidelity and religious Indifference.—Discourses on Universal Restitution.—The General Prayer-Book; containing Forms of Prayer on Principles common to all Christians; for religious Societies, for Families, and for Individuals. Chiefly selected from the Scriptures, the Book of Common-Prayer, and the Writings of various Authors.—General Instructions in the Doctrines and Duties of Religion; altered from "*Practical Instructions*;" third edition.—The Causes of the Inefficacy of Public Instruction considered; in a Sermon preached at the Ordination of the Rev. David Jardine, Bath.—A Unitarian Christian's Statement and Defence of his Principles; with Reference particularly to Charges of the Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of St. David's. A Discourse delivered at Langyndeirn, near Caermarthen, July 6th, 1815; with notes.—A Sermon on Persecution.

Dr. Estlin had also prepared for publication, a set of Lectures on Moral Philosophy, which he had been accustomed to deliver to his pupils and family on the Sunday evening; and to which many of them may probably trace impressions the most favourable to the formation of a virtuous character. These will speedily be given to the world, although they have not received his last corrections.

EVELYN, Lady, on November the 12th, in Piccadilly, of a lingering complaint, which had long resisted all medical skill, but was borne with Christian fortitude and resignation, in the 72d year of her age. She was widow of Sir Frederick Evelyn, of Wotton, in the county of Surry, Bart. daughter and only issue of William Turton, of Staffordshire, Esq. As the relict of a descendant of the pious and learned John Evelyn, she took pride in preserving the memorials of that ancient and honourable family, of which she considered herself the representative; whilst her taste for botany gave additional charms to the residence and gardens of her venerable predecessor. Like him, too, she lived not for herself: those who were favoured with her friendship will cheer-

fully bear testimony to the urbanity of her manners and general kindness; and the numerous poor who have so frequently experienced her bounty in the neighbourhood of Wotton, have great cause to deplore the loss of their kind benefactress.

## F.

FARQUHARSON, Rev. John, in the Scotch College, Paris, deservedly lamented. He was long principal or head of the Scotch College at Douay, in Flanders, which he was forced to abandon at the period of the Revolution, and went to Glasgow, where he remained many years, officiating as a Catholic clergyman, and was much esteemed for his modesty and humility, and as an honest man.

FRASER, John, August 3, at Knockbain, parish of Kirkhill, N.B. aged 102 years. He fought under the banners of the Chief of the clan at Culloden, and on many other occasions; has always been a careful sober man. He could, till within the last two years, dance a Highland reel with as much spirit as a man of 30 years of age; had a very extensive memory; and would rehearse many anecdotes regarding his Chief's exploits.

## G.

GOUFFIER, Count de Choiseul, was born in 1752. At the age of 22, he paid his first visit to Greece, and in 1782, he produced his celebrated work, entitled "*Voyage en Grece*." This magnificent undertaking obtained admission for him into all the academies; and two years after he was nominated Ambassador to Constantinople.

That mission enabled him to make new researches in Greece, Ionia, Egypt, and Syria.

At the Revolution, he transmitted 24,000 francs in the name of the French residing in Turkey, to the National Assembly; but having afterwards engaged in a correspondence, with the exiled Princes, he was obliged to seek refuge in Russia, where he obtained both protection and a pension from the Empress Catherine. His son, while there, became the husband of the rich Countess Potocka.

In 1802, M. de Choiseul was permitted to return to Paris; in 1803 he became a Member of the Institute; and enriched France with a variety of Greek monuments, which are not, however, so numerous as those of the Elgin collection.

On the return of Louis XVIII. the

Count was created a Peer of France; and soon after nominated a member of the French Academy and the Academy of Fine Arts. He was twice married, first to Mademoiselle Gouffier, and secondly to Madame de Beaufremont, of the family of Lavanguyon. M. de Choiseul, who was a man of elegant and polished manners, as well as of a highly cultivated mind, died in 1817. — *Le Moniteur*.

GRAHAM, John, Esq. on November 1, 1817, at his house in James's-square, Edinburgh, after a severe and lingering illness, aged 63. He was historical painter, and for many years Master of the Trustees' Academy in that city. Mr. Graham was originally apprentice to Mr. Farquhar, an eminent coach-painter in Edinburgh at that time, from whence he went to London, and was employed in his occupation of coach-painter for many years. In the meantime, being admitted a student of the Royal Academy, the fine collection of casts from the antique, and the society of many young men who have since risen to eminence in the highest departments of the art, extended his views, and inspired his mind with the desire of prosecuting the more elevated walk of historical painting, which he subsequently followed with great success. About the year 1798, he was appointed Master of the Trustees' Academy, vacant by the death of Mr. David Allan, which situation he has filled ever since, with great credit to himself and advantage to his pupils, and the arts of this country in general. This academy, which was originally founded to promote the mechanical arts and manufactures of the country, for the instruction in drawing of carvers, painters, weavers, &c. became, on the accession of Mr. Graham, a school of design. To this end the liberality of the Board of Trustees greatly contributed, by their procuring, at this time, for the use of the institution, a very magnificent set of casts from the antique, which is only surpassed in Britain by the collection of the Royal Academy of London. By this improvement in the condition of the academy, and the exertions of Mr. Graham, the arts of the country have been carried to a greater pitch of excellence than they had ever attained before, and many young men who have received the rudiments of the art there, have since conferred, by their talents, the greatest honour on their country; of these, the names of Messrs. Wilkie, the Burnets, and Allan, are already well known to the public. Mr. Graham's principal works are, David instructing Solomon (in the possession of the Earl of Wemyss)—the Burial of General Fraser—two pictures for the Shakspeare Gallery, &c. He also exe-

cuted many smaller works, and some portraits. His composition, though not remarkable for any striking originality of conception, is pure and chaste. In the distribution of his groupes in his large works, he was singularly fortunate. His drawing, though without the vigour and energy of the Florentine School, is correct: his draperies are large and finely cast; his colouring excellent, and his handling broad and masterly. The few portraits which he has left exhibit little of the beauty so conspicuous in his historical works. He also executed several pictures of lions, tigers, &c. from studies made from nature in the menagerie of the Tower, wherein he has exhibited these animals with great truth and force of expression. From the circumstances of Mr. Graham's situation in early life, his education was very limited, and his manners had little of the polish and courtly refinement which are necessary to give genuine worth its just estimation in the eyes of the world, and often give a currency even to mediocrity of talent, or laxity of principle. He was, however, friendly, honest, sincere, and independent, and highly regarded by those who knew his worth. To his pupils he was candid and communicative, and ever ready to give his advice. Since he settled in this city as Master of the Academy, the few works he has done can contribute little to his fame, as the apathy of the public towards the fine arts, particularly to the more dignified department of historical painting, afforded no stimulus for the exertion of his talents, and any thing he has executed since must rather be considered as filling up an idle hour, than done with the determination of exerting all his powers in its completion. — *Edinburgh Mag.*

GRAVES, Charles, Esq. at Ipswich, suddenly, on Nov. 2, 1817. He was a skilful performer on the organ, and no mean proficient in optics, and the higher branches of philosophy; for the pursuit of which, he possessed an extensive and valuable apparatus.—His secluded life and eccentricity of manners, his talents for music, electricity, and mechanics, the variety of his pursuits, and the strange habits he had formed, rendered him a general object of public attention; he had lately erected offices for sugar-baking. He was found dead in his bed.

## II.

HACKET, Lady, the wife of Sir C. Hacket, Kt. suddenly.

HALL, Benjamin, Esq. M. P. August 31. He resided at Hensol Castle, and was Knight of the Shire for the county of Glamorgan.

**HARDY, John, Esq.** Oct. 2, at Peniston, Yorkshire, aged 67; formerly a surgeon, but who had retired from practice. He for many years appropriated a tenth of his income to acts of charity, and to the support of religious institutions; and he has often remarked to his children, by way of promoting a similar spirit of benevolence in them, that "the more he gave the more he got."—His classical studies in early life, and his extensive and profound research into the ecclesiastical polity of Europe at a more mature age, stamped a mind naturally formed for a love of independence, with an ardent attachment to civil and religious liberty, of which, to the close of an active and useful life, he stood the undaunted champion and zealous advocate.

**HEARN, Sarah,** aged 100 years and seven months. She was buried in St. John's church-yard, Westminster. Thomas, her husband, who had been married to her upwards of half a century, followed her to the grave at the advanced age of 95; he enjoys his health, and walks firmly.

**HIGGS, Rev. John, B.D.** on Dec. 1, at the rectory-house, Grundisburgh; the senior Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, Rector of Grundisburgh, and one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for that county. He received the rudiments of his education at Westminster-school, and entered at Trinity College, Cambridge, in 1746, where he proceeded B. A. 1750, being the second junior Optime in the Tripos of that year. In 1752, he was elected a Fellow of his College, and took the degree of M. A. in 1754, and that of B. D. in 1768. He was presented by his College to the Rectory of Grundisburgh in 1780, which living he held tenable with his Fellowship. He was a contemporary both at School and at College with the celebrated Richard Cumberland, Esq. who, throughout life, entertained the sincerest friendship and regard for him.

**HILL, Mrs. Elizabeth,** Nov. 21, 1817, in Duke-street, Bristol. Her death was occasioned by her endeavouring to fasten a cup with crumbs in it, outside her bedroom window, for a robin-red-breast, who paid constant attendance there for several weeks, and, over-reaching herself, she fell backwards into the area, never to rise again.

**HORSFORD, Major-General Sir John,** at Cawnpore, in the 65th year of his age, commanding first division field army, and Colonel of the 3d battalion of artillery. The State has in him lost a most able and upright servant, the army one of its most distinguished officers, and the Honourable Order of the Bath a member worthy of its distinction. He served nearly thirty-

nine years with his regiment as an officer, and was much employed on field duty during the eight years he commanded the Bengal artillery: his attention to its interests was chiefly exemplified in improving the situation of the soldier, European and Native, in all the several branches of that extensive and widely dispersed corps. After a service of forty-five years, in various parts of India, spent in constant and unwearied devotion to his duty—never even in sickness having enjoyed the indulgence of one day's furlough, or leave of absence from his professional labours—this eminent officer, whose sound constitution, hardened by temperance, had long contended with an extraordinary complication of disease, ended a long life of useful services shortly after his return from field service at Hattras. A man of stern principle, sound judgment, extensive knowledge, and independent spirit, his memory will be respected by all who knew him, and his loss long regretted by those who were his selected friends.

**HUTCHINSON, Rev. George,** at the Vicarage-house, Nottingham, Vicar of St. Mary's, in that place, Rector of Uppingham, Rutland, and one of the Prebendaries of Southwell. His death was occasioned by a fall which he met with at Buxton about two months before.

**HUTTON, Rev. G., D.D.** late Fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford, Vicar of Sutterton, and Rector of Aderchurch cum Fosdike, Oct. 26. After having performed a portion of the duty at both the above churches on that day, he was seized with a violent pain in the body at half past seven o'clock in the evening, and expired about eight o'clock, before medical assistance could be obtained.

**HUTTON, Mrs.** the second wife of the celebrated Dr. Charles Hutton, F.R.S. No woman ever filled more amiably the duties of wife and step-mother. Grief for an only daughter, whom she lost about 20 years since, undermined her constitution, and produced an excess of nervous irritability, which led to her death. She had walked out in the morning of the day on which she died; and, meeting some unfortunate men, whom the officers of justice were marching in irons through the public streets, the shock on her spirits produced a fit, from which she could not be recovered. She partook in the lighter walks of literature in that taste for books, which has conferred so much solid fame on her husband; and she was, on most subjects of conversation, as intelligent and agreeable, as in performing the duties of social life she was good, charitable, and exemplary.

**HYNDFORD, Andrew Carmichael**, Earl of, Viscount Inglisberry and Nemphlar, and Lord Carmichael of Carmichael. This nobleman died at Mauldslic Castle, North Britain, on Friday April 14, 1817, in the 60th year of his age. The greater part of his Lordship's time was devoted to agricultural pursuits, at Mauldslic; he was one of the most skilful farmers of his neighbourhood; and this is no slight praise in a district distinguished for the excellence of its farming. Mauldslic, his patrimonial inheritance, is now separated from the Hyndford estate; it has fallen to his Lordship's sister, Mrs. Nisbet of Carfin. Sir John Anstruther, Bart. succeeds to the entailed estates: the title is extinct.

## J.

**JESSUP, Mr. Samuel**, May 17, 1817, at Heckington, aged 65, an opulent grazier, of pill-taking memory. He lived in a very eccentric way as a bachelor, without known relatives; and has died possessed of a good fortune, notwithstanding a most inordinate craving for physic, by which he was distinguished for the last thirty years of his life, as appeared on a trial for the amount of an Apothecary's bill at the last assizes at Lincoln, in which Mr. Jessup was the defendant. The evidence on the trial affords the following materials for the epitaph of the deceased: in 21 years (from 1794 to 1816) the deceased took 226,934 pills supplied by a respectable Apothecary at Bottesford; which is at the rate of 10,806 pills a year, or 29 pills each day; but as the patient began with a more moderate appetite, and increased it as he proceeded, in the last five years preceding 1816 he took the pills at the rate of 78 a day, and in the year 1814 swallowed not less than 51,590. Notwithstanding this, and the addition of 40,000 bottles of mixture and juleps and electuaries, extending altogether to 55 closely written columns of an apothecary's bill, the deceased lived to attain the advanced age of 65 years.

## K.

**KEEN, Mr. Francis**, at Banwell, Somersetshire, Sept. 14. in his 82d year; the old and faithful clerk of the Friendly Society of that place for nearly thirty years. He will long be remembered as a self-taught artist in musical instrument making, book-binding, and other ingenious

arts. Some years ago, he actually began and finished an organ of sufficient dimensions for a moderate sized church. It appears, by records still extant, that his ancestors were inhabitants of Banwell prior to A. D. 1331, 22d Henry VIII. as one of them, Edmund Keen, was a parish officer that year. In the year 1555, 3d Philip and Mary, William and Robert Keen, two brothers of this family died and were buried in the same grave; and a similar melancholy occurrence took place in the family in 1811, as two young men, neither of them twenty years old, named George and Jacob Keen, brothers, and grandsons of the subject of the present memoir, died within a week of each other, and were interred in the same grave.

**KENT, Thomas Wickam**, lately in St. Giles's Workhouse, a very interesting old man, whose hard fate has for several years excited the commiseration of many persons connected with the arts, from believing him to be the natural son of a peer, the grandfather of a duke. He used to say he was born at Bradwell, near Tideswell in Derbyshire, in 1744; had a good education given him; and at a proper age was articled to Mr. Joseph Wilton, a celebrated statuary of the day; and having acquired proficiency in this art, he went to Rome to complete his studies. For many years afterwards he was employed in the shops of several of our first artists; but this employment somewhat failing him, and being a proficient in music, about the year 1795, he entered into the band of the 101st regiment, in which he remained till about 1800; after which, for a short time, he kept a plaster figure shop in Whetstone-Park, near Holborn. About a year ago he became too infirm to make his accustomed calls on the private benefactors, by whom he has for some years been chiefly supported, and some of whom are believed to have tried every effort to get him provided for in a more appropriate way than in a common workhouse; but at last starvation drove him thither.

**KOSCIUSKO, General**, at Soleure, in Switzerland, in the spring of 1817. This celebrated warrior, a noble by birth, was born in Poland about the year 1752, and educated at Warsaw. After serving with reputation in America, he returned to his native country, and appeared at the head of a large but a disciplined army, to assert her independence. At first he was victorious, but, at length, the tide of fortune set in against him with so strong a current, that he proved unable to stem it.



Having been wounded and taken prisoner, he was confined to a fortress, by order of the magnanimous Catharine, whom all the world combined to praise, and liberated by the generosity of her son, the late Emperor, whose conduct has been uniformly blamed by every one. On this, he returned to America, where he was honourably received; and on landing in England two years afterwards, the gallant Pole was presented by the Whig-club, with a sword, as a testimony of esteem on the part of the nation, for his talents and misfortunes.

Having afterwards settled in France, in 1806, a proclamation appeared in his name, encouraging his countrymen to rise against their oppressors, and promising that he should become their avenger. But he was prevented, by ill health, from fulfilling his wishes.

On the entrance of the allies into France, his asylum was respected; and during an interview with the Emperor Alexander, that Prince offered to confer every kind of honour and favour upon him; but Kosciuszko declined accepting any thing. In 1817, accompanied by his friend M. Zutner, he repaired to Switzerland, and died there, in the 65th year of his age.

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## L.

**LATOUCHE**, the Rt. Hon. David, August 1, at his seat St. Catharine's, near Dublin, in the 88th year of his age. He was many years one of His Majesty's Privy Council, and for forty years a member of the parliament of Ireland. Mr. Latouche was the senior partner in the great banking-house of Latouche and Co., Dublin, long celebrated in every part of the British empire for probity, honour, and solidity. So established was its character for wealth, "that 'as good as Latouche'" was a familiar phrase in Ireland, when it was sought to convey an idea of superior solidity and sufficiency in pecuniary transactions; and all this wealth was associated with a spirit of liberality and humanity, that forbade envy, and conciliated universal respect and esteem.

**LEFANU**, Alicia, in July, 1817, at her son's house, Royal Hibernian School, Phoenix park, Dublin. She was wife of Joseph Lefanu, Esq., and sister of the late Rt. Hon. R. B. Sheridan. Mrs. Lefanu was a lady of genius and literary attainments. She was the author of "The Flowers, or the Sylphid Queen, a Tale," 1810; and "The Sons of Erin, or Modern Sentiment, a Comedy," 1812.

## M.

**MACDONALD**, R., Esq., in April, 1817, at Inverness, at an advanced age. This gentleman, who was a cadet in the Keppoch family, was a subaltern in Keppoch's regiment in 1745, and was present at the battles of Preston, Falkirk, and Culloden. Mr. Macdonald was one of the young gentlemen, who with drawn swords, attended Andrew Cochran, Provost of Glasgow, in proclaiming the Pretender by the name of King James VIII. and III. At Culloden he was made prisoner; but owing to his youth, was allowed to transport himself to Jamaica, where he commenced planter. Having by his industry acquired an independent fortune, he returned and settled in his native country.

**MAIRE**, Mr. John, at Manchlin N. B. Nov. 18, in his 105th year. He was born at Galston in Ayrshire, in March 1713, and received a commission in the Trainbands in 1745. His mental energies and bodily strength continued unimpaired until a little before his death.

**MASON**, Jos., Esq., on Dec. 1, in Charlemont-street, Dublin, in his 65th year. He was the younger son of a respectable family which had been for some time settled at Little Coolbanagher, in the Queen's county, adjoining Shane Castle, the residence of the late Dean Coote. Mr. Mason was early introduced into active life, and long held a confidential and laborious situation in the office for payment of corn premiums, where, for many years previous to its suppression, he was one of the deputy-paymasters. He has been often heard to say, that when he first came to Dublin, he had not more than a guinea in his pocket, and that, although in the course of his official duties, sums to the amount of more than 60,000*l.* annually passed through his hands, yet he never left his account one shilling in arrear. Mr. Mason was first married to Miss Groves, sister to the late James Groves, Esq., an eminent attorney in Dublin, by whom he had issue three surviving children: Wm. Shaw, author of the Statistical Survey of Ireland; Olivia, first married to Alderman Hutton, late Lord Mayor of Dublin, and now the wife of Robert White, Esq., of Grafton-street, in the same city, one of the firm of the house of Hawkes, Moseley, and Co., London; and Edward Groves, of the First-Fruits Office. Mr. Mason was afterwards married to Miss Andrews, eldest sister of Alderman Andrews of Dublin. His remains are deposited in the cemetery of St. John's Church, Coolbanagher, within a mile of the place of his nativity.



**MASSENA**, Andrew, at his estate at Ruel, near Paris, after a severe and long illness, during which he had become blind, in 1817. He was Prince of Essling, Duke of Rivoli, Marshal of France, Grand Cross of the Royal Order of the Legion of Honour, Commander of the Royal and Military Order of St. Louis, Grand Cross of the Orders of St. Stephen of Hungary, of St. Hubert, of Fidelity, of Baden, and Hesse d'Armstadt.

Massena was born at Nice, on May 8, 1756, and served for some time at sea. He afterwards became a fencing-master; but at the epoch of the revolution, he left the service of the King of Sardinia, where he was a serjeant, and entered into that of France. His talents for war, immediately led to preferment, and we soon after find him at the head of a large body of troops in Italy, where he repeatedly defeated the Austrians. He also distinguished himself in Germany; and in 1799, overcame a Russian army under Korsakow in Switzerland. His defence of Genoa, however, was perhaps, the most brilliant exploit of his life. Having been sent to Spain by Buonaparte, he there lost all his former reputation, and was obliged to retire before the victorious banners of England.

Having a large *fortune*, and an only daughter, he afterwards conducted himself with such consummate policy, that the success of Louis or Buonaparte, became a matter of perfect indifference to him.

The long illness of Marshal Massena, prevented him from receiving the *Bâton* of Marshal from the hands of the King. But Louis XVIII. directed the minister of war to transmit it to his family, in order to be used at his funeral procession, which took place at Paris, April 10, 1817.

**MAURY**, Jean Siffrein, at Rome, in the Spring of 1817. He was originally known as one of the chaplains of Louis XVI., and a member of the French academy. At the commencement of the Revolution, he declared for the Royalists, and was almost the only distinguished man of that party, who did not perish by the guillotine. He was preserved on more than one occasion, by his courage and his wit. When threatened to be suspended by the populace, *a la lanterne* he gaily exclaimed, "Will this enable you to see more clearly!" and thus escaped by a *partee*!

Having at length fled into Italy, he was immediately created first a Bishop, then Archbishop of Nice, and finally a Cardinal, by Pope Pius VI. On the elevation of Buonaparte, to the Imperial diadem, Maury returned to France, and obtained the rich revenues of the Archbishopric of Paris.

During the captivity of the Pope, he became in some measure the head of the Gallican church; but having thus acted, both for, and against the Bourbons, he from this moment lost all his power, character, and consequence.

On the return of Louis XVIII., the Cardinal set out for Rome, where he remained in considerable obscurity; and he appears to have fallen a martyr to his own suspicions. He fancied he saw a change of colour in his lips, that denoted his having swallowed poison; and by taking counterpoisons, he killed himself. He lived the life of a miser, and persuaded himself that he was conspired against by all mankind. He was born at Vaurias, near Avignon, 26th June, 1746, and had been created a Cardinal, February 1792. Although rather in disgrace since the downfall of his master, and the restoration of the Pope, his funeral was attended by all the Cardinals. His riches are left to a brother, who is in the Church, and resident in France.

**MELGUND**, Viscount, eldest son of the Earl of Minto, at Interlaken, Switzerland.

**MESSIER** Charles. This celebrated astronomer, a member of most of the great academies in Europe, a member of the French Institute, and of the Board of Longitude, died in Paris in April last, at the age of 87 years. He was born at Badonvilliers in Lorraine, and having early devoted himself to the study of astronomy, became the pupil and confidant of the celebrated Delisle. When the return of Halley's famous comet was expected, all the Astronomers of Paris looked up for its first discovery to Delisle, who had read to them a memoir on the most proper means for facilitating that important observation. Delisle committed the business to his pupil, who soon verified the correctness of the prediction. This good fortune, the result of long and tedious toil, might have obtained great credit for a young man, and have in time opened for him the doors of the academy.

From a weakness, however, unworthy of a man of science, Messier's master wished to reserve for himself the honour of having confirmed the return and perfected the theory of the comet. He accordingly commanded secrecy, and refused to show the observations of his disciple, till the astronomers, having received information from another quarter, were able to dispense with that assistance, which two months before they would have gratefully accepted. Some portion of the censure incurred by the master, fell upon the too compliant pupil, whose observations, which for want of an object of comparison, could

not possess the same accuracy, or inspire the same confidence, were long rejected. M. Messier was not discouraged; he became only the more assiduous in watching the movements of the heavenly bodies. Almost all the comets that appeared during the succeeding years, were discovered by him alone, and each of these discoveries procured him admission into some foreign academy. Two astronomical vacancies having taken place in the French Academy, Messier and Cassini were admitted on the same day in 1770, as Lalande and Legendre were in 1753.

Accustomed to pass whole nights in observing eclipses of every kind, in seeking comets, and describing nebulae; employing all his days in following the spots on the sun, or making charts of his numerous observations, Messier could never be induced to quit this rather narrow circle, alleging that the field of science was sufficiently extensive for the astronomers to share its different parts, which would thus be but the better cultivated. Moderate in his desires and in his ambition, and connected by the closest friendship with President Saron, who entrusted him with his most valuable instruments; Messier had no occasion for wealth. The Revolution deprived him of all his resources at once; the first retrenchments took from him the moderate salary attached to his place of astronomer to the navy; his friend Saron, the last chief president of the parliament of Paris, fell beneath the revolutionary axe; and Messier, in order to be able to prosecute his labours, was necessitated to go every morning to one of his colleagues, to replenish the lamp that had served him in his nocturnal observations. The storm was fortunately but transient. Ashamed of the excesses into which it had been led, the Convention showed more liberality to the sciences. Messier found in the Institute, and at the Board of Longitude, a comfort and independence to which he had been a stranger, and which he enjoyed undisturbed till the end of his life. After sixty years devoted to his profession, he became blind, like Eratosthenes, Galileo, and D. Cassini.

One of his colleagues, the celebrated Lalande, has formed a constellation in honour of him—the only one that yet bears the name of an astronomer. But independently of this homage paid by friendship, the name of Messier will last as long as the science, as long as the catalogue of the comets in which his name has been so frequently and so honourably inscribed. The world is indebted to him for the discovery of nineteen comets, from 1758 to 1800. Few astronomers more profoundly

studied or were better acquainted with the heavens than Messier; his name and his labours are conspicuous in the Memoirs of the Academy of Sciences since 1752, the *Connaissance des Temps*, the Ephemerides of Vienna, the Philosophical Transactions, the Memoirs of the Academy of Science of Berlin, and other collections. He edited in association with the learned Pingré, the *Voyage of the Marquis de Courtenvaux*, Paris, 1768, 4to.

MORIER, Isaac, Esq., at Constantinople. He was his Majesty's consul-general in the Turkish dominions.

MURRAY, Lady Anne, at Brighton in her 90th year, sister of the late Chief-Justice Mansfield. This benevolent character rewarded the fidelity of her servants in the most liberal manner, as the following statement of bequests will show: To her housekeeper, who had been nearly 33 years in her service, she has given 3500*l.*, and her wardrobe; to her butler, who had been 24 years, 1200*l.*; to her cook, who had been 19 years, 700*l.*; to her laundress, who had been 11 years, 600*l.*; to her two housemaids, one of whom had been 18, and the other 9 years in her service, 600*l.* each; and to her footman, who had been 9 years, 600*l.* The residue of her ladyship's property devolves on George Finch Hatton, Esq., of Eastwell Park, in Kent, who married her niece.

MURRAY, John, Esq., at Crieff, in Perthshire, on October 2. He was Laird of Ardbirnie, and a justice of the peace. lieutenant of the Royal Navy, and marine surveyor to the Board of Admiralty. During a long and valuable service, this excellent officer made some important discoveries on the coast of New Holland, and surveyed and drew plans of the principal harbours of the kingdom.

## O.

ONSLOW, Right Rev. Arthur, D. D. Dean of Worcester, Master of St. Oswald's Hospital, and Archdeacon of Berkshire at Lindridge. He was born in 1745, and died October, 1807, in his 72d year.

## P.

PARKER, Mr. William, at South Lambeth, aged 84, many years an eminent glass manufacturer, to whose skill this country is much indebted for its superiority in that branch of trade.

He was many years ago, the contriver of three burning mirrors, whose effects have been commented upon, and recommended in books upon Science.

**PARSONS, Sir William**, July 19, of apoplexy. This gentleman was born about the year 1742, and having addicted himself early in life to music, soon attained considerable eminence in it. It was his good fortune, after he had become a Professor, to be employed at Windsor, in teaching music, to some of the junior branches of the Royal Family. In consequence of this, being a very respectable man, and well fitted for public business, he was knighted, and recommended to the Secretary of State for the Home Department, who soon after appointed him a police magistrate. He accordingly attended during many years in rotation at Marlborough Street, and died in 1817, at the age of about 75. Sir William was Master of his Majesty's Band of Musicians; to which latter situation he was appointed on the death of Stanley, the celebrated blind organist.

## R.

**REDESDALE, Right Hon. Lady Frances**, Aug. 22, in Harley-street, in her 51st year. Her ladyship was the daughter of the late Earl of Egmont, great granddaughter of the fourth Earl of Northampton, and sister to the present Lord Arden, and of the late lamented Rt. Hon. Spencer Perceval. Lady Redesdale has left three children.

**RIGBY, Dr. of Norwich**, his infant son, on Nov. 3. He was aged eleven weeks and three days, being the first in the series of the late quadruple birth; and Nov. 5, aged eleven weeks and five days, Caroline Susan, the fourth in the series, and last surviving child; (Charles Henry, the second in the series, having died Oct. 12; and the third in the series, some days before him.)

**ROBERTSON, Jean**, Sept. 9, at Inverness, North Britain. This extraordinary character usually employed herself in gathering dulse and shell-fish, with which she occupied her station in the market, until within a few days of her death. She would occasionally take a trip to the country to retail tea, and was not ashamed to beg at times. After her death, upwards of 60*l.* in bank bills, and 3*l.* in silver, were found in her apartment, which she had completely filled with clothes, provisions, and fuel, piled up to the roof, leaving only about four feet round the fireplace of vacant space; yet the poor wretch appeared uniformly in the same tattered garb upwards of twenty years, and is supposed to have shortened the period of her existence by abstaining from the common necessities of life.

**ROBINSON, Mr. John**, at Kendal, aged 85. He was of a good family, in a neighbouring part of Lancashire, and became a merchant, in early youth, at Liverpool, where he failed; since which time he has led a very singular life at Kendal. He was very covetous; but his love of money, in many instances, gave way to his predilection for whim and eccentricity. He had a horse on keep many years at the Angel Inn, Kendal, but never rode it; for if he went a journey — which was frequently the case — he led the animal the whole way; and whenever asked by any acquaintance to lend it, his answer was, "I have no time to go with thee to lead it!" — The horse was killed by the humanity of his master; for he literally died of the fat-rot, for want of exercise. He kept several pointer dogs, bought up every gun that had the character of a good one, and annually took out a game licence; but his plan of future operations in this as in all other cases, remained unrealised to the day of his death, for he never went a shooting. The idea of commencing sportsman had not left him at the age of 85; for a few days before he died, he provided a number of new bags, proper for the purpose of bringing home the game he should kill this season. The humanity with which Mr. Robinson treated his horse, and his persevering determination to maintain his dogs in idleness, exhibit him in the character of a Pythagorean Philanthropist; but, nevertheless, one of his principal pleasures was teasing his own species; for he was a constant attendant at sales by auction of household goods, and rarely hesitated to give any price for a book or article of furniture, which he perceived another person had set his mind upon. In consequence of this invidious and unsocial disposition, he has left many rooms in different parts of the town occupied by articles both of convenience and literature, which he never used.

**ROPER, Rev. Francis, M. A.**, Oct. 21; in Windsor Cloisters, after a long illness. He was Vicar of Sutton-Courtney, Oxon, Minor Canon of St. George's Chapel, and one of the conducts at Eton College. — At the express desire of her Majesty, Mr. Roper was regularly attended by the Royal Physicians, and was also supplied with every necessary from the Palace twice a-day. He has left a widow and ten children.

## S.

**SCOPPA, the Abbé**, at Naples, in the month of October, 1817. He was a nobleman of Messina, and director of the

schools on the English system, lately established in the kingdom. The Abbé, who died in the prime of life, is author of a work, "On the Poetical Beauties of all languages, considered in respect to the *Accent and Rhythmus*;" which, in 1815, obtained the prize given by the French Institute.

SCOTT, Mr., a tradesman of Exeter. He travelled on business till about eighty years of age. He was one of the most celebrated characters in the kingdom for punctuality, and by his methodical conduct, joined to uniform diligence, he gradually amassed a large fortune. For a long series of years the proprietor of every inn he frequented in Devon and Cornwall knew the day and the hour he would arrive. Some time since, a gentleman on a journey in Cornwall stopped at a small inn at Port Isaac to dine. The waiter presented him with the bill of fare, which he did not approve of, but observing a fine duck roasting. "I'll have that," said the traveller. — "You cannot, Sir," replied the landlord; "it is for Mr. Scott of Exeter." "I know Mr. Scott very well," rejoined the gentleman; "he is not in your house," — "True, Sir," said the landlord; "but six months ago, when he was here last, he ordered a duck to be ready for him this day, precisely at two o'clock;" and to the astonishment of the traveller, he saw the old gentleman, travelling on his *Rosinante*, jogging into the inn-yard about five minutes before the appointed time.

SHERIDAN, Esther Jane, widow of the late Rt. Hon. R. B. Sheridan, at Frogmore, Oct. 27, after a long and severe illness. Mrs. Sheridan was the youngest daughter of the late Very Rev. N. Ogle, D. D., of Kirkley, Northumberland, and Dean of Winchester, who, by his prudence, secured her a settlement that ensured her independence, and, at the same time, produced a provision for her son.

STEVENSON, Mrs. Mary, a widow, near Wolverton, in the county of Durham, at the age of 104. Her family is famous for unparalleled longevity, as her mother died at the age of 108, one sister at 107, another sister at 105, and a brother at 97, making, in all, 521 years, as the united ages of five persons.

STEVENSON, William, on July 17, in Glen-street, Kilmarnock, aged 87. He was originally from Dunlop, and bred a mason; but during the latter part of his life, wandred about as a common beggar.

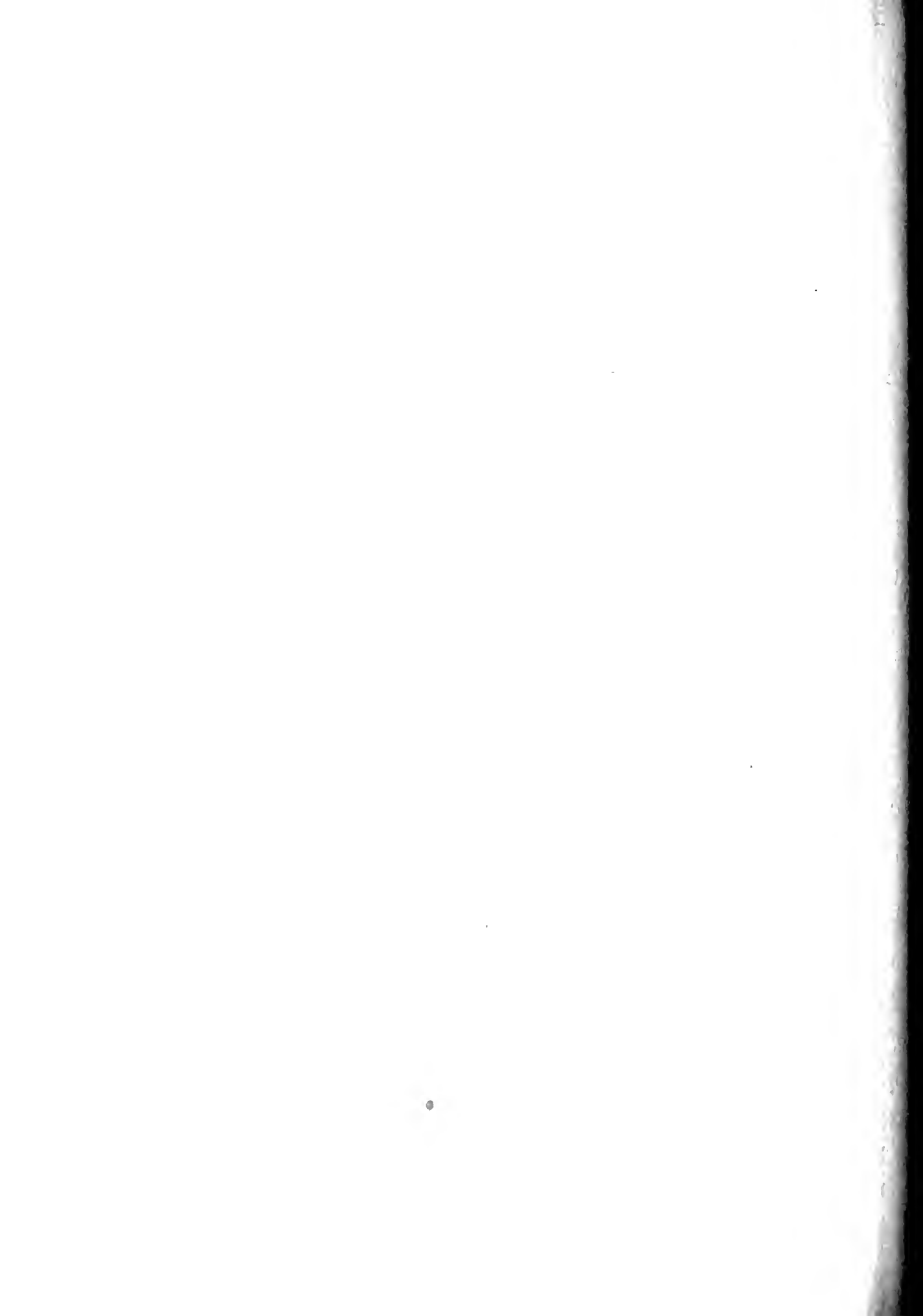
Thirty years ago, he and his wife separated upon the strange condition, that the first who proposed an agreement should forfeit 100*l*. This singular pair never met again, and it is not known whether the heroine yet lives. Stevenson was much afflicted, during the last two years of his life with the stone. As his disease increased, he was fully aware of his approaching dissolution and for this event made the following extraordinary preparation: — He sent for a baker, and ordered twelve dozen of burial cakes and a great profusion of sugar biscuit, together with a corresponding quantity of wine and spirituous liquors. He next sent for the joiner, and ordered a coffin to be prepared for him. The grave-digger was then sent for, and a spot fixed upon for his interment. Having made these arrangements, he ordered the old woman that attended him, to go to a certain nook, and bring out 9*l*., to be appropriated to defray the funeral charges. He told her, at the same time, not to be grieved, for he had not forgotten her in his will. In a few hours afterwards, in the full exercise of his mental powers, but in the most excruciating agonies, he expired. Upon examination of his effects, a bag of crowns, half-crowns, and dollars, to a large amount was found: in a corner was secreted, amongst a quantity of musty rags, a great number of guineas and seven-shilling pieces. In his trunk was a bond for 300*l*., and other bonds and securities to a very considerable amount. In all, the property amounted to 900*l*.

#### W.

WERNER, the celebrated German Mineralogist, at Dresden, in 1817. According to a letter from that capital: "his name was known from the iron-mines of Siberia, to those of gold in Peru." He was interred with extraordinary pomp at Freiburg. — Among the effects left by this celebrated mineralogist, there are several MSS. nearly ready for the press. He had printed nothing since 1774. His labours always appeared to him not sufficiently matured; but his instructions were spread over the world by thousands of scholars. His cabinet of minerals, consisting of 100,000 specimens, (estimated at 150,000 crowns,) has not become the property of the King of Saxony, as has been reported, but of the Mineralogical Academy at Freiberg.

THE END.









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